



Daily Report

Latin America

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Amazon Region Parliament Proposes Creation of Common Market

*PY1605022393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2243 GMT
13 May 93*

[Text] Brasilia, 13 May (EFE)—The Amazon Region Parliament today proposed the creation of a common market among the eight countries that make up the Amazon Basin in one of the resolutions approved at the conclusion of the fifth Amazon Region Parliament Assembly.

Brazilian Senator Alaciz Bezerra, president of the parliament, told EFE that trade at the Amazon border regions is a common market in practice and the parliament members want the governments that make up the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (TCA) to go ahead with the market's institutionalization.

Bezerra said: "In practice there is some kind of informal common market at the border regions." He added that with this idea in mind the eight countries' organizations should organize and increase trade.

Bezerra also said there are no incompatibilities between this project and the integration mechanisms of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur)—Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay—and the Andean Group—Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador.

He added that the final goal should be a fusion of the two subregional groups into a single Latin American common market.

President Itamar Franco, in opening the assembly, suggested putting into operation a model of economic integration in the Amazon based on bilateral agreements in the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), which has its headquarters in Montevideo.

Franco named his project the "Amazon Initiative," and to stimulate it he offered to the other countries that Brasilia become the TCA headquarters, which is made up just like the parliament of Brazil, Bolivia, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Guyana and Suriname.

Bezerra explained that in a preliminary phase the Amazon common market project can be implemented with the incentive of the current barter trade and the creation of companies with binational capital.

The delegates of the Amazon Region Parliament who are members of the legislative assemblies of the signatory countries supported, in the document released by the assembly, the construction of two highways, one to link

Brazil with the Peruvian coast, and the other to link Brazil with the Caribbean region of Venezuela.

The main parts of those highways exist but it is necessary to improve them and to build other parts for the permanent and safe traffic of trucks and cars.

The part of the highway that has many defects in the Brazilian territory from Rio Branco to the Peruvian border, which is 680 km long, already has a budget for its improvement and the work should end next year.

The delegates also recommended to the governments to further study the possibilities of using the Amazon region's rivers for navigation because this is the region with the greatest number of rivers in the world.

The delegates also approved the trip of a commission to Washington to meet President Bill Clinton and Vice President Albert Gore to ask for U.S. support of the Biodiversity Treaty, which received the support of the majority at the UN Conference on the Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

The delegations will go to Manaus tomorrow to attend the inauguration of the Pan-Amazon University, a project sponsored by the Amazon Parliament, which will carry out research and offer courses on science and technology for sustained development.

Rio Group Secretariat Travels to Japan To Enhance Relations

*PY1505150293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2243 GMT
14 May 93*

[Text] Santiago, 14 May (EFE)—Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, the Rio Group "pro tempore" secretary, traveled today to Japan, where with his Argentine counterpart Guido di Tella and his Brazilian counterpart Fernando Henrique Cardoso, he will meet with Japanese Foreign Minister Kabun Muto.

The three foreign ministers, who make up the Rio Group Secretariat, will convey to the Japanese minister the Rio Group's interest in enhancing relations with that Asian country.

Silva Cimma reported in Santiago that the idea is to create with Japan a working group similar to the one kept by the Rio Group with the EC, with which it holds yearly meetings.

The Rio Group, which held a ministerial meeting in Santa Cruz in April, is made up of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The working meetings in Tokyo will begin on 17 May and will conclude on 19 May.

Cuba

Robaina Announces Diplomatic Offensive To Defend Human Rights

PA1505043093 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish
0100 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina announced on 14 May the beginning of a diplomatic offensive to defend human rights, given the large-scale campaign launched by the United States against Cuba in this area.

Robaina addressed the media in eastern Santiago de Cuba Province, where he is conducting a tour, and said human rights, liberty, and democracy were powerful and strong concepts on the island 30 years ago, because it was due to these concepts that the country achieved what it has today.

Nevertheless, he added, these concepts are now the target of a powerful anti-Cuban campaign. The revolution sometimes acted on the defensive but the largest island in the Antilles refuses to remain on the defendant's seat, constantly answering questions, Robaina said.

The Cuban foreign minister said those who deserve it should be placed on the defendant's seat and they should answer the questions. He added that the rules of the game that have prevailed in human rights debates at the world level should be changed.

ANAP President Remarks on Agricultural Difficulties, Production

FL1705014293 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision
Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] In the following interview, Orlando Lugo Fonte, president of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP], talks about some of the tasks our men in the fields are tackling and dedicating to celebrate Farmer's Day.

[Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] It has been said that the country's main task is to produce food. Obviously, the ANAP has an essential role in this task. How is the ANAP doing regarding this goal on the occasion of Farmer's Day?

[Lugo] First of all, we have reached this date by working hard to finish up the sugar harvest. As you know, we have had difficulties with the sugar harvest and are making an enormous effort. I would say we are performing heroic feats to complete the sugar harvest. In addition to completing the sugar harvest, we are working on recovering the sugar crops; in other words, planting the sugarcane assigned to our sector, weeding, fertilizing, replanting, and doing everything we need to do to recover the sugarcane crops. These are two main aspects of the food program that we are working on with the working class.

We are also working to produce vegetables and tubers. The peasants also have an important role in producing vegetables and tubers, and we are also working hard in that sense. We have been hit, just as the state enterprises have, by the weather conditions, the storm of the century, the rainfall, and the drought in other parts of the country. But in the face of these difficulties we are working hard and achieving some success despite the difficulties I have already mentioned. [end recording]

First Criminal Chamber Sentences Audiovisuales Ex-Manager

FL1605233093 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision
Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] The First Criminal Chamber of the provincial People's Court in Havana City Province sentenced citizen Heberto Lopez Morales to 15 years imprisonment for recurring illegal economic activities, fraud, and falsifying private, banking, and business documents. Other sanctions imposed on Lopez were the loss of public rights; confiscation of the means and instruments of the crimes, which included all the properties and documents seized at the time of his arrest, including seven automobiles; \$1,317; 17,000 Japanese yen; and cash in a fixed-rate account in the International Financial Bank, which was fed by funds taken from the Cuban state. All confiscated goods will be allocated to the state's budget and unified fund.

The court, presided over by Rafael Thomas Rodriguez Hernandez, based its decision on a critical, detailed analysis of the abundant oral, documentary, and incriminating evidence presented at the hearing, which proved the guilt of the accused beyond a doubt. Lopez broke the law when he worked as general manager of the Audiovisuales Caribbean S.A., which imported electronic equipment. Using his position, Lopez violated the law, norms, and regulations for profit. He misled and deceived public officials; carried out undercover business transactions; and paid under-the-table bribes to create ties of gratitude and dependency with certain people, creating a climate of corruption and moral decomposition in interpersonal relations.

During the sentencing, Lopez' civil obligations were declared, including compensating several Cuban state enterprises for losses and damages, estimated at 400,000 pesos. Also, after completing his prison term, he will for five years be under the supervision of organizations and units that comprise the crime prevention and social welfare commissions.

Several Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] officials, with no criminal guilt, were implicated in the events that led to the trial. This provoked a political process, which has already concluded and was made known public. This resulted in dismissal from their posts and separation from the PCC.

The revolution does not permit impunity to anyone, especially when its principles are violated.

Delegate Says U.S. Violating Coexistence Standards

FL1405204293 Havana Radio Rebelj Network in Spanish 1950 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The United States is violating the most elemental standards of international coexistence by creating a television station that broadcasts directly against Cuba, as well as a government radio station whose programs attack Cuba's political project. That is what Edgardo Valdez Lopez, Cuban delegate to the UN Information Committee, said and emphasized that the U.S. Administration allows other stations to operate freely in the United States with a subversive, anti-Cuban message.

Valdez recalled that Cuba has reiterated, on several occasions, its rejection of subversive broadcasts. The Cuban representative to the UN Information Committee reaffirmed Cuba's willingness to exchange information with the United States on the basis of mutual respect and reciprocity.

Deputy Foreign Minister on 'International Circumstances,' U.S. Policy

PA1505044693 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez Parodi stated in Havana that international circumstances make it possible for the United States to adopt a more reasonable policy in Cuba. Sanchez invited the U.S. Government to show it is willing to settle the decades-old disagreement between the two nations.

Sanchez said the U.S. Government possesses sufficient information to know that historic conditions and international circumstances have changed and that, consequently, U.S. policy on the island should change also.

Sanchez also said that last week two U.S. Government representatives contradicted each other when they referred to the Cuban situation. While Vice President Gore reiterated the U.S. policy on Cuba with the usual rhetoric, Deputy Secretary of State Clifford Wharton said the U.S. President opposes attempts to make changes through violence.

Recently, New York Representative Charles B. Rangel introduced a motion to stop the economic blockade against Cuba, and Florida lawmaker Milton Diaz-Balart favored the internationalization of the measure.

The Cuban deputy foreign minister said that the motion to internationalize the blockade shows that some people in the United States disregard the resolutions and proposals issued by the United Nations, an organization that late last year condemned the blockade that Washington imposed on Cuba more than 30 years ago.

French First Lady Asks U.S. To End Blockade

FL1405185993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Danielle Mitterand, the first lady of France, has asked the United States to end the blockade imposed on Cuba for over 30 years now and warned that the Cubans will continue to defend their achievements despite the embargo in force.

Speaking at a ceremony during which she received a Washington Award for her dedication to respect for human rights, the wife of the French president said the Cuban people will not give up in their determination to preserve the advantages their revolution has brought them.

She said: Think about the Cubans who are facing difficulties because of food and medicine shortages and who are trying to reactivate their developing economy in spite of the implacable blockade that is strangling them.

France has always maintained a policy of open cooperation with Cuba that is at present expanding to the spheres of tourism, oil exploration, air transport, and communications, according to official sources in Paris.

Visiting French Communist Party Secretary General on Cuban Democracy

PA1605170493 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 93

[Report by Barbara Betancourt; French Communist Party secretary general speaks in French with superimposed translation into Spanish]

[Text] Shortly before concluding his visit to Cuba, Georges Marchais, secretary general of the French Communist Party, said in Havana that democracy is not limited to the existence of a multiparty system. Marchais made the statement to Cuban and foreign reporters when asked for his opinion on the construction of democracy in Cuba with a single party.

[Begin Marchais recording] In our country the creation of democracy with a single party is inconceivable, but I am talking about France. We must take each country's situation into consideration. You know as well as I do that there are many capitalist countries with more than one party but where there is neither democracy nor liberty. We place a great deal of importance on the opposition, but democracy cannot be reduced to the issue of having one, two, or three parties. I repeat: Opposition forces and the opportunity to express positions are very important, but we cannot reduce democracy to that one matter only.

I visited the country four years ago and I have noticed that as a result of the elections, undeniable progress has been made at all levels in the effort to develop relations with the people, to take what they have to say into consideration.

I think from that point of view there has been progress, and that is important. It is important.

No one has denied that the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] wants to continue making progress in that regard. [end recording]

Marchais commented on his interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro.

[Begin Marchais recording] I return to my country with the idea that Fidel Castro and his comrades have not hidden their problems and difficulties from us. Second, they did not hide the big effort that the Cuban people must make. Third, we maintain the same position on the international solidarity issue I mentioned a few moments ago, especially on the importance that we must give to the struggle against the blockade and against the Torricelli law. We agree on this.

We have secured much information on the outlook of the PCC, including its plans on relations with the people. This was an important meeting. I believe, I am certain, that we have obtained the objectives we had in coming here. [end recording]

Robaina Meets With European Parliamentarian Deputy

FL1505013293 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina met with Eugenio Melandri, deputy to the European Parliament, today. Our reporter Fritz Suarez has more information:

[Begin recording] [Suarez] During the six days of his visit to Cuba, Melandri has studied the consequences of the U.S. blockade against Cuba.

[Melandri] I am certain that, right now, the U.S. blockade is not against the Cuban Government but the Cuban population.

[Suarez] You will communicate your opinion to the European Parliament?

[Melandri] I will try to give a two-part report to the European Parliament. The first part deals with the goal of the European Community to strongly express opposition to the blockade, saying...[pauses] asking that the blockade be lifted. We say that this is the negative part, no to the blockade; but there is another part that we must do, which is a positive part. I think that right now, the European Community must not only say no to the blockade but must also say yes to an economic agreement of cooperation between the European Community and Cuba.

[Suarez] The blockade against Cuba is interpreted from different points of view, but from the humanitarian side, it raises condemnation and solidarity.

[Robaina] For everyone, and especially for me, its meaning from a humane side is special. Bringing it closer to this time, I always try to bring up the issue that the blockade, to maintain it today, means that for 2 million children in Cuba, the sin they have committed was to be born in this country; and because of the sin of being born in Cuba, they have been condemned to die from hunger, simply because of this blockade, which is how it seems to me. In times like these, to contemplate the blockade is not just to contemplate it; it is to participate in this crime. [end recording]

Russian Governmental Delegation To Analyze Relations

FL1505010393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] It was announced that a Russian governmental delegation will arrive in Havana next week to analyze the whole of relations with Cuba. It was mentioned that in November Cuba and Russia signed in Moscow an accord regarding the creation of a joint intergovernmental commission, maritime commercial navigation, a protocol for trade and payments, and the continued existence of an electronic monitoring station near Havana.

ANPP Deputy Heads Trip Through PRC Interior

FL1505004893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The trip through the interior regions of the PRC being led by Brigadier General Moises Sio Wong, a deputy of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], equates to a crusade to restore historic ties between Cuba and the PRC. Sio Wong, who heads the Cuban-Chinese Friendship Association, stated that the trip will include the provinces of Canton and Fujian and the city of Shanghai, and seeks to promote ties between those regions and the institution he leads.

There is a special connection with Canton, the Cuban official said: Almost every member of the Asian colony in Cuba is a descendant of Cantonese immigrants and many still have family there. This intensifies the interest in expanding the movement of cooperation. Sio Wong will also tour a village near Canton where his parents were born.

In Canton, the Cuban delegation will visit the special economic zone; in Fujian, the delegation will visit the one in Xiamen. The two are veritable gateways for the reception of capital and foreign products.

Military Officials Examine Logistics Cooperation With PRC

FL1505181893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] High-ranking military officials from the PRC and Cuba met in Beijing to examine important issues of bilateral cooperation in the logistics sector. The Cuban

delegation is headed by Brigadier General (Orlando Almaguer Vidal) and the Chinese delegation is headed by (Fu Chang Yon), director of the Logistics Department of the People's Liberation Army. The Cuban military delegation has planned a tour of different areas of Beijing, as well as the cities of Wuhan, and Quanzhou.

Vietnam Donates Rice Shipment

FL 405134293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The revolutionary brotherhood that unites Vietnam and Cuba was highlighted by Melba Hernandez in connection with the shipment of rice Vietnam is donating to Cuba. Hernandez, who recently returned from Vietnam, said Vietnamese leaders had reminded her that their people carry in their hearts the solidarity expressed by Cuba at a time when Vietnam was fighting imperialism.

The Moncada Garrison heroine said the Vietnamese collected rice and money for other products and took care of the ship's expenses up to the time it enters the port of Havana on 25 May.

Lastly, Hernandez said that in keeping with an agreement between Cuba and Vietnam, Vietnam will supply Cuba with 100,000 tons of rice per year, from the current year to 1995.

Delegation Signs Summation Act With Tunisia

FL1705012293 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Tunisia and Cuba have signed a summation act that highlights the diversity of contacts between business representatives from the two countries in that northern Africa nation.

The Tunisian side was headed by Salah Hanachi, secretary of state to the Ministry of International Cooperation and Foreign Investment. The Cuban delegation was headed by Ernesto Melendez, president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

The Cuban representatives met with Tunisian business authorities and toured places of economic interest. The Cuban delegation is conducting a working tour through various countries of northern Africa, which already included Libya.

Government 'Unable' To Offer Scholarships to Third World Students

FL1405230093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1535 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, May 14, CANA—The Cuban Government is anxious to review its programme of offering scholarships to Third World countries, Lazaro Cabezas, Cuba's ambassador to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, says.

Cabezas told CANA Thursday [13 May] that due to economic constraints facing Cuba his government was unable to offer any scholarships this year.

"The economic situation that we are facing now (has made it) impossible for the Cuban Government to (offer) scholarships for a short while. We are expecting that for the next two or three years we can renew the scholarships for the Caribbean and the rest of the Third World countries when the economy revives," he added.

About 15,000 citizens from Third World countries are studying in Cuba on scholarships granted by the Cuban Government.

Cabezas said these students would be allowed to complete their course of studies although the situation was extremely taxing economically. The Cuban ambassador, who presented his credentials to Governor-General Sir David Jack on Monday [10 May], said he had also held discussions with the Chamber of Industry and Commerce on possible joint venture investments and trade opportunities.

He said there were good possibilities for expanding trade between Cuba and the English-speaking Caribbean and he expected more English-speaking investors would begin to do business with Cuba.

Cabezas cited tourism as one of the important sectors in which meaningful joint-venture arrangements could be worked out in the short term. He noted that such arrangements already existed with Jamaica and the Bahamas, which were marketed as multi-destinations and it was hoped similar arrangements could be developed with the rest of the English-speaking Caribbean.

Western Media's 'Avalanche of Slander' Viewed

PA1605161493 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 93

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] If the Cuban people did not have a spirit strong enough to march forward in spite of current problems, they could acquire a guilt complex [eternamente acusado].

In recent times, well-paid Western reporters whose professional career has much to do with the ongoing anti-Cuban diatribe have acquired the habit of criticizing every decision made by the Cuban authorities and people, regardless of the motives or objectives.

Everything Cubans do, either domestically or internationally, generates in a sector of the Western media reactions that include infamy, mistrust, rejection, half-truths, and deprecation.

These persistent critics of everything that happens in Cuba reject the legitimate right a people have to decide their own destiny and to work on the political model backed by the majority.

A prism tainted with ill intentions is used to describe negatively Cuban attempts to make rational use of investments by foreign investors. It is being affirmed that Havana's authorities are selling out the country.

If the Cuban authorities happen not to use an investment option, or if time passes before an investment is secured, the critics charge that Cuba is criminally eluding opportunities to produce changes in the economy capable of alleviating today's severe shortcomings.

As Pedro Ross, a top Cuban labor union leader, has said, if the island wants to host the Pan-American Games it is viewed as bad, but if it declares that it cannot host them, that is also viewed as bad.

Radio stations that broadcast negative messages from Miami recently tried to diminish the importance of the effort made by Cuban health authorities that in a few weeks produced 1.8 billion vitamin pills for free distribution to the population.

That measure, directed at fighting the effects of a neuropathic epidemic, has been characterized in Miami as insufficient and useless. Had Havana taken some time in adopting that decision, it would have been accused of indifference in the face of the Cuban people's suffering.

The objective is to confuse the Cuban people and burden them with a guilt complex. That wish always collides with the Cubans' decision to resist the material difficulties produced by external factors as well as the avalanche of slander written against Cuba abroad.

International 'Solidarity' Aid To Counter 'Storm of the Century' Viewed

FL1505171193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 15 May 93

[Unattributed GRANMA Commentary: "Dignity and Gratitude"]

[Text] The Cuban people are receiving with dignity and gratitude the solidarity that is arriving from countries around the world in the form of contributions and encouragement to face the damages caused by the so-called storm of the century. The effects in most of the country, including the loss of human lives, destroyed thousands of homes, warehouses, communication lines, industries, and, most of all, agriculture, causing damages estimated at \$1 billion.

The State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE], an organization in charge of coordinating international aid in close cooperation with the various Cuban institutes, moved forward in three directions in calling out to the international community; in other words, to the multilateral and bilateral government sectors and to the bilateral nongovernment sector.

In the multilateral sector, the United Nations activated an emergency group, which was composed of representatives of the UN Development Program, the World

Food Program, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Children's Fund, and the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. On 14 and 15 March, this emergency group visited some of the rural and urban areas that were affected most by the winds and tidal surge.

In the bilateral government area, on 18 March, the Ministry of Foreign Relations and the CECE summoned the diplomatic body accredited in Cuba to a meeting briefing them on the meteorological catastrophe that affected the country.

In the bilateral nongovernment sector, the CECE sent a message to all the nongovernment organizations having ties with Cuba, informing them of the damages that were caused by the natural disaster. The international call by Cuba for solidarity received its first answer on 19 March when international nongovernment organizations, governments, solidarity groups, and individuals communicated their willingness to help us.

While that solidarity aid was materializing for subsequent shipment from many parts of the world, the Cuban Government used its limited reserves of food, medicine, and other essential items for the people affected by the storm so that no citizen was left helpless and without the essentials for family survival. The effort, as was to be expected, was extraordinary, but we needed to do it with speed, calmness, and by counting on the contribution of our people. Food, various medicines, and medical and social assistance were immediately guaranteed in every place where there was a homeless or injured person or someone affected by the storm.

The Cuban Government and its people tackled the difficult but possible task of recovering from this strong natural disaster with its own limited resources while the international solidarity aid was materializing. To date, \$10 million worth of donations have been promised, of which Cuba has received slightly more than \$1 million in food and medicine. This figure brings us to the conclusion that the donations promised by the international community encourage our people to continue working to recover from the damages even though, from the material standpoint, it represents only 1 one percent of the total losses we suffered.

So, you have a clear idea of what these donations represent from the material standpoint in comparison to the current consumption levels of our people. Let us say, for example, that every month Cuba consumes 8,500 tons of grain, 35,100 tons of rice, and 4,800 tons of imported powdered milk in addition to the milk produced in Cuba. The donations we have received so far are 22.5 tons of grain, 34.4 tons of rice, and 25 tons of powdered milk. Even though it is aid that our people greatly appreciate in the material sense, it has a very high moral value in human solidarity, which we will always remember.

For the Cuban people, who are used to struggling on their own to overcome the difficulties, the international

gesture of solidarity during difficult times is another reason for them to feel proud of the work they are achieving. At the same time, it is assurance that we are not alone, or much worse, forgotten or rejected because of the ideas we defend. Let us use this moment to assure all the people in the world who have expressed their solidarity to us that every donation we receive, every gram of food or every medicine we receive will be given, as everything else is in our country, to those who need it most.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

St. Vincent Fruit Traders Exploring Buying Guyanese Mangoes for Export

FL1405230793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1553
GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, May 14, CANA—Fresh fruit traders from St. Vincent and the Grenadines are exploring the possibility of buying mangoes from Guyana for re-export to international markets, Ken Boyea, manager of the St. Vincent-based East Caribbean Group of Companies, says.

Boyea told reporters here this week conditions in Guyana allowed for two mango harvests in any one year, with the second coming during December when most other countries would be without the fruit.

He said the second crop was more valuable for this reason "because it comes at a time when there's a shortage of mangoes throughout the world". The ECGC manager did not give details as to how far the explorations had gone nor how many people were involved.

His comments were made following a meeting with Ali Khan, general secretary of the Guyana Rice Producers Association, who is an adviser to the Guyana Government, on rice production in Guyana.

Khan said he had raised the question of an increase in the price for the commodity so that farmers could receive more money for their paddy, but both men declined to discuss what they agreed on. Boyea, whose company owns a rice mill at Anna Regina in Guyana, said efforts were continuing to upgrade the quality of rice from Guyana so that further inroads could be made into markets in Europe.

The company has received commitments to supply a minimum of 14,000 tonnes of rice this year to markets in Europe, Boyea said.

He added, "The future of Caricom (the Caribbean Community) depends a lot on the successes in Guyana (which is) one of the few places that could grow crops on a large enough scale for export".

Bahamas

Government To Offer Shares in Public Utilities

FL1405232293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1707
GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, May 14, CANA—The Bahamas Government will offer up to 49 per cent of shares in each of the three public utilities companies within 18 months, Works and Utilities Minister Frank Watson has announced in Parliament.

He said that the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation will be the front runner in the Free National Movement administration's privatisation scheme.

In the initial stages, it is not intended that the government will relinquish more than 49 per cent of any of the corporations.

The other two entities are the Bahamas Electricity Corporation and the Water and Sewerage Corporation.

Watson hoped that when the time came to relinquish control, it would rest in the hands of Bahamians.

The government also intends in the not too distant future to privatise the Bahamas hot mix plant and its landing craft, he said.

He said that the previous government's excursion in the private sector caused tremendous pain and suffering to the Bahamian people.

Watson was speaking Wednesday on a bill for an act to establish a Public Utilities Commission.

The bill is intended to remove political interference from the administration of public corporation affairs.

Watson said that the bill will change the climate in which public utilities do business in the country and lead to significant improvement in efficiency and quality of service.

Dominican Republic

President States Opposition to U.S. Sending Troops to Haiti

FL1405182893 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT
14 May 93

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer said that he was opposed to U.S. authorities sending troops to Haiti. Nevertheless, Balaguer said he supports the decisions of the international organizations mediating in the crisis that affects Haiti. Dr. Balaguer said that military intervention is a loathsome act for Latin American democracy. He added that this would not be the best solution to the Haitian crisis.

Furthermore, Balaguer said that the Haitian problem is the responsibility of the OAS, specifically. President Balaguer was interviewed at the conclusion of a ceremony in which a school, an industrial park, and roads in Sanchez Municipality, Samana Province, were being inaugurated.

Editorial Views 'Eventuality' of Military Solution to Haitian 'Crisis'

FL1405201593 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 May 93

[Station editorial: "The Wrong Solution"]

[Text] There are good reasons to believe that the eventuality of a military solution is under consideration as a way to resolve the current Haitian political crisis. From what can be seen, it would be a covert military action, but in the end it would be a military action that would not meet the desired goals.

If diplomatic efforts to date have failed, it is because most of the diplomats in charge of those efforts are not intimately acquainted with the Haitian social being. Despite its belonging to the group of Latin American countries, Haiti is a different world in its language, idiosyncrasies, and mythical beliefs.

The democracy that is being sought for Haiti should not be viewed through the prism of the rest of the nations of the region. Regardless of the level of development or poverty in Haiti, a military solution, even one disguised as an international police force, would affect the principle of nonintervention endorsed in various inter-American conferences.

For our country in particular, a military action like the one under consideration would bring us back to a traumatic past, one that is impossible to forget. This past, which weighs heavily on each Dominican, patriotically keeps us from accepting the validity of any solution other than a diplomatic one in an attempt to solve the current Haitian political crisis.

No other Latin American country is as well qualified as ours to interpret the Haitian situation. Haiti and the Dominican Republic are Siamese twins, in a way, whose destinies are bound by a design of history. Therefore, endorsing a military solution or, as it is announced, a police solution to resolve the Haitian crisis would ultimately amount to advocating this for ourselves.

Haiti

Bazin Said Not 'Officially' Informed of Possible Foreign Intervention

FL1405155893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 14 May 93

[Passages within slantlines in Creole]

[Excerpts] The threat of foreign intervention gives rise to [word indistinct]. Prime Minister Bazin answered the numerous questions of the Interior and Defense Commission, controlled by the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion, in the upper chamber, a short while after military officials answered the same questions. Like the Army, the consensus prime minister had not been officially informed of the possible deployment of the multinational force.

[Begin recording] [Bazin] /...of the U.S. Government told me that he would like to inform me of the discussions being held in New York with various agencies about sending a multinational police force to Haiti. I received the information with, obviously, the feeling that [words indistinct]. But, personally, I have never seen any document. I have never seen any plan. I have never seen any request from anyone, and most notably, the government has never taken the initiative of asking anyone to send a police force to Haiti. So, like you, I have read all that you have read in the newspapers. There is more in the newspapers than in the official communications I receive./

[Announcer] Regarding government and Army preparations for retaliation against a possible attack by a foreign police force, the Villa d'Accueil prime minister was content to answer:

[Bazin] /In these situations, especially in military matters, operations are highly confidential, very secret. So if you do not mind, I will not enter into any details regarding measures taken or considered, but what I can tell you is that there is a very clear willingness on the part of high-command members not to accept a multinational police force on Haitian territory. I spoke to these high command members, as well as to members of the government over which I preside./

[Announcer] Mr. Bazin finally asked President Aristide to think about the issue. What would be his true authority if he had to return to the country under the high security of a foreign police force? What would be his attitude on flag day after he desecrated it? [passage omitted] [end recording]

When, even before, Bazin was sworn in as prime minister, he said in the presence of the Senate that in case of foreign intervention in the country, we quote: Bazin, take your rifle and die.

UN/OAS Mission Head Meets With Gen. Cedras, High Command

FL1405170093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The head of the UN/OAS civilian mission, Mr. Colin Granderson, met with General Raoul Cedras and the Army High Command at Army Headquarters in Port-au-Prince on 12 May.

The meeting followed a series of letter exchanges between Mr. Granderson and Gen. Cedras. At the center of the discussion were the numerous human rights violations and cases of intimidation. The mission expressed its concern regarding the upsurge of violence in the country and the disappearance of political activists. Furthermore, the international civilian mission brought the attention of the high command to breaches in the terms of reference defining the mission's mandate. The delegation led by Mr. Granderson also protested the intimidation of members of the international mission and people in contact with them. Patrick Eliancy met with Colin Granderson, executive director of the UN/OAS civilian mission:

[Begin recording] [Granderson] First we talked about the detentions and the illegal, arbitrary arrests. We, of course, discussed the beatings and the fact that protection is provided by the Haitian Armed Forces. We talked about cases of intimidation in which people contacted the mission and acts of provocation against the observers themselves.

[Eliancy] What did Gen. Cedras say? Did he promise that orders would be given to his subalterns to stop these violations?

[Granderson] We met for three hours. We discussed all these problems. Gen. Cedras stated that the high command [words indistinct].

[Eliancy] Mr. Granderson, reports have been circulating since the beginning of the week that an international peacekeeping force might be sent to this country. Are you informed about this? Could you give me some details?

[Granderson] We are not informed. We read the newspapers and listen to the radio like everyone else. We do not have further information.

[Eliancy] When is Mr. Caputo coming?

[Granderson] Unfortunately, we have no information on that. [end recording]

This meeting, which lasted three hours, was held in the presence of Ian Martin, director of human rights for the mission. On 13 May, Mr. Martin left for Washington, where he would be meeting with envoy Dante Caputo.

The heads of the civilian mission also had a work session with mission coordinators of the nine geographical departments of the country. This meeting focused on work methods, questions related to them, violations of human rights, and living conditions in the prisons. The number of UN/OAS observers within the framework of the international civilian mission is now at 125.

Deputy Says Chamber Opposes Foreign Intervention

FL1405213593 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Deputy Antoine Joseph, president of one of the Chambers of Deputies, has reacted to the prospect of a peaceful force in Haiti. The office of the Chamber of Deputies firmly opposes all foreign intervention on national soil. Deputy Antoine Joseph stated in a note expressing doubt as to the usefulness of the presence of such a force. The office, headed by Antoine Joseph, called on the patriotism and spirit of tolerance of all Haitians to silence their passions and ultimately meet around a negotiation table in the national interest.

Groups Oppose Foreign Intervention

FL1405211793 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 14 May 93

[Excerpts] The announcement by the U.S. Government of its intent to bring before the UN Security Council the matter of sending 500 police into Haiti to ensure a smooth transition toward democracy has been condemned by Mobilization for National Development [MDN]. According to MDN, President Aristide is allegedly responsible for such an affront by having encouraged the international community to go farther and farther.

The vice president of the socialist bloc takes the same stand, no matter whether the intervention is organized in a smooth or in a violent manner. The vice president of the socialist bloc at the lower chamber expressed that opinion on the radio.

For its part, the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH] calls on the Haitian people to be alert, while asking the consensus government to oppose with utmost firmness any attempt to occupy the national soil. [passage omitted]

The pro-lavalas sectors also condemn the idea of foreign intervention, while they exhort military and governmental officials to rational action.

Because military and political sectors have systematically hampered negotiations, they are responsible for this humiliating situation, says the National Congress of Democratic Movements. The party of Victor Benoit and Claude Bajeux asks the Army to refrain from politics and accept President Aristide's return to power. The point is that they must be able to choose between democracy and military intervention.

Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, member of the [pro-Aristide] presidential committee and general coordinator of the Papaye Peasants Movement, MPP, was already opposed to any military intervention.

In conclusion, Fabio Herrera Cabral, Dominican deputy foreign minister, stated that democracy cannot be

restored in Haiti through force. In his opinion, President Balaguer is a hero for having facilitated the transit of humanitarian aid to Haiti. The clear stand of the Haitian Episcopal Conference against any form of military intervention should not be forgotten.

The MODELH-PRDH [Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti, formerly Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti] of Francois Latortue is also opposed to this initiative of the United Nations [as heard] to send a police force of 500 to Haiti. [passage omitted]

People's Organizations Said To Show 'Optimism' for Multinational Force

FL1405215593 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Some people's organizations close to the National Front for Change and Democracy showed a certain optimism regarding the deployment of a multinational force as a solution to the national crisis. Those organizations met with the press on 13 May and denounced the attitude of the members of the government, accusing the government of Prime Minister Marc Bazin of complicating the current situation.

CONAOP Thinks Force of 500 Men Will Increase

FL1405220993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The National Confederation of People's Organizations, CONAOP, believes that a force of 500 men will not be able to assure order and public peace in a population of 6 million. The confederation thinks that such a force will quickly turn into a force of 10,000 to 15,000 men and will closely work with the Haitian Armed Forces to the detriment of the power of the people.

Jamaica

Senate Passes Bill Postponing Local Elections

FL1605200493 Bridgetown CANA in English 2249 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 15, CANA—It is now certain that Jamaica's local government elections which were constitutionally due by July 1 this year, will now be delayed for at least a year.

The Jamaican Senate formally passed a bill Friday [14 May] postponing the election to no earlier than June 30, 1994 to allow time for reform of Jamaica's faulty electoral system. Parish councillors will continue to hold office until then. The ruling Peoples National Party (PNP) controls most of the local assemblies.

Another bill extending to August 31, the time for Jamaica's constitutional commission to make its recommendations for proposed constitutional [as received],

was also passed by the Senate which includes only PNP members because of a refusal by the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) to nominate senators. The report from the constitutional commission was originally due last December. In piloting the election bill through the Senate, minister without portfolio, Dr. Peter Phillips said Jamaica's electoral office needed to be in greater readiness for any new election.

Investigations into malpractices in the controversial March 30 general election should also be completed and a report made to parliament before any new poll, he said. The irregularities during the March 30 election has influenced the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) to refuse to name senators and to partially boycott the house of representatives.

In addition to the concerns over electoral reform, Phillips said the delay would also allow time to ensure reforms to the local government structure, including the provision of greater autonomy to local councils.

Labor Party Unveils Report on Election 'Fraud'

FL1705020693 Bridgetown CANA in English 2122 GMT 16 May 93

[Report by Paget DeFreitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 16, CANA—The opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) Sunday unveiled its own report on what it insists was widespread fraud in the March 30 general election here, arguing that the findings strengthened its call for a commission of enquiry to conduct a full probe of the poll.

The JLP has made the commission central to ending a partial boycott of Parliament by its eight members of the 60-member House of Representatives and for opposition leader Edward Seaga to name his 13 senators to the 21-member upper chamber.

Compilation of the 115-page document, half of which consists of appendices of maps and newspaper articles on the conduct of the election, was based on problems encountered by the party during the official reports of returning officers, Seaga told reporters. The document highlighted the party's claim of either malpractices or incompetence by the electoral office, incidences of bogus voting, intimidation against JLP supporters and the use of elements of the police force to subvert the process.

While Seaga conceded that even without the malpractices the JLP would have lost the election—though the margin would have been different, he argued that the incidences set out in the report underlined the danger of the electoral process. The document, even as it called for a commission of enquiry, stressed the need for an overhaul of the electoral machinery, including the management of the police force. The commission of enquiry, the JLP has maintained, was required to fully vent the problem and to point the way forward to electoral reform.

"This is the last attempt we have to change the electoral system for a democratic future," Seaga said Sunday.

Prime Minister P.J. Patterson has agreed on the need for electoral reform but has said that they can be handled within the ambit of the electoral advisory committee on which both parties and independent members were represented. A number of studies in the past on electoral problems here, the government has said, provides some of the solutions for the way forward. However, the JLP has maintained that the scope of electoral malpractices on March 30 was wider than at anytime in the past and that it for the first time included the electoral office and the police force in a serious way.

"The lack of preparation by the electoral office opened the way for a number of election day abuses—which by the frequency and extent of their occurrence would by themselves have made this a seriously flawed election," the JLP document said. The document mentioned several instances where polling stations open late, in some cases after midday. It claimed intimidation of JLP supporters in 30 constituencies, stressing this "was not confined, as in previous elections, to certain parts of the corporate area and St. Catherine." It added: "Thugs invaded polling stations, ejected JLP agents, and marked ballots of PNP candidates." In some cases ballot boxes were stolen, ballots defaced and when ballots were returned, votes were converted to the governing Peoples National Party or defaced.

The report has rapped the role of the police in facilitating the alleged fraud. It said: "While there have been some instances in past elections where the police, in particular, have played a partisan role—usually by acquiescing passively in wrongdoing by political thugs, in none has the role played by the police in aiding and abetting political malpractice and violence been as obvious, as active and as obtrusive as in the March 30 general elections. Members of the the police force openly participated in marking ballots, intimidating JLP supporters, harassing JLP candidates, and protecting thugs who were terrorizing polling stations, the JLP report said." The document said the implications of what happened went far beyond party interest although the JLP had a special interest.

"There is great disease in the body politic—a cancer that will destroy it if action is not taken now and taken urgently to change and reform our electoral system," the report said. "These changes must include sweeping reforms of the governance of the police force and in the management of the security forces during elections. It must include too a system of balloting which is not vulnerable to the stuffing and stealing of ballots and ballot boxes or the abuses of delinquent and malevolent electoral officials."

St. Lucia

Opposition Leader Advises Against Privatization of Commuter Airline

FL1405234593 Bridgetown CANA in English 2214
GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, May 14, CANA—St. Lucia's opposition leader Julian Hunte on Friday advised against the privatisation of the regional commuter airline LIAT, urging instead that the company be diversified.

"This diversity of ownership should ideally comprise the governments, the private sector and employees of LIAT, with the private sector being made responsible for management of the company," he told reporters.

Hunte's remarks followed an announcement Thursday [13 May], by St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister James Mitchell of substantial progress being made in selling off the airline, which is owned by Caribbean Community (Caricom) governments.

Mitchell has been mandated by Caricom leaders to initiate the sale of the airline.

But Hunte said that with the region placing much emphasis on tourism as a major revenue earner, selling the airline at this stage would be counter productive.

"This would impact negatively on island-hopping tourism, and seriously inconvenience indigenous people of the sub-region who have come to regard LIAT as their sole means of access to neighbouring islands at an affordable price," he said.

Hunte said that privatisation was not always the "best remedy for the loss-making airline", adding: "It is a fact well known in the private sector that sometimes all that is needed is a change in the management structure."

He is suggesting that the governments "enter into a contract with the private sector for the management of LIAT, since it is usually government-appointed management that is at fault."

Trade Ministry Not To Grant Licenses To Import Certain OECS Goods

FL1405233593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1859
GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, May 14, CANA—The St. Lucia Ministry of Trade has announced with "immediate effect" that it would not be granting licences to import certain goods manufactured within the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

In a letter sent to the private sector here and dated May 13, the ministry said that it had adopted the action, in accordance with Article 56 of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) treaty.

That article provides for the promotion of industrial development within the so-called lesser developed countries (LDC's) of Caricom, by granting protection for some items.

According to the ministry's letter, a copy of which has been obtained by CANA, importers here have been told that "with immediate effect, import licences will not be issued for the following items originating out of Caricom and extra regional sources, as a result of the items having Article 56 protection".

These articles are curry powder, wheat flour, pasta products, aerated beverages, candles, edible oil, margarine and shortening, oxygen in cylinders, toilet paper, paper bags, solar water heaters, chairs and other seats of wood and upholstered fabric, other furniture of wood and upholstered fabric and concrete blocks.

The ministry said that "these items are to be obtained from local manufacturers within the OECS".

Price Control and Supply Officer F.G. Mathurin, who signed the letter, told CANA that the new regulation was not aimed at banning any products from any member Caricom state.

His remark followed reports in Barbados, that Castries had placed a ban on furniture from Bridgetown.

Prime Minister John Compton, who was in Barbados when furniture manufacturers began complaining, had suggested that the decision was taken by a junior official.

"This is more to limit the importation of those commodities... We can't allow it to flood the market. Our OECS partners have to sell," Mathurin said.

The Caricom trade ministers meeting in St. Kitts in 1991 had agreed to extend the provisions of Article 56 by another five years.

President Salinas Reaffirms Economic Strategy

PA1405195993 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 May 93

[Report by Jaime Guerrero]

[Text] The federal government will continue to promote free trade, within a framework of loyal competition, inside and outside the country. That is what President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said when he inaugurated the 75th Confederation of National Chambers of Commerce, Concanaco, Assembly in Tabasco. The president added that the three government branches will carry out joint actions to get informal merchants to comply with their fiscal obligations.

[Begin Salinas recording] In our relations with foreign countries, we insist that we want trade to be free but not disloyal. Internally, we also want free, but not disloyal, trade. [applause] If you, as you have been doing, fulfill your obligations, we believe everybody else should do so too if they want to participate in legitimate commercial activities. [applause] [end recording] Before the Mexican organized merchants, President Salinas reaffirmed the economic strategy to prompt lower inflation rates. He said the strategy gives confidence to the industrial and commercial sectors and enables them to plan modernization programs on a long-term basis. He admitted, however, that there are still markets in the country that have to join the effort. The president added that, thus, the process to deregulate economic activities and the total rejection of monopolistic ventures will continue. It is a matter of promoting competition to favor competitiveness, diversity, quality, and prices to benefit the consumers, President Salinas asserted.

[Begin Salinas recording] At the same time, we trust credits will be given at a more reasonable rate as a result of the competition between financial intermediaries. This will allow you to modernize and increase your operations and confront the competition effectively. [end recording]

Commerce and Industrial Development Secretary Jaime Serra stated that the government will continue to boost measures that promote competition to consolidate the development of economic activities. He added that the existing framework favors the alliance between the production and the government sectors and called on the private sector to promote the new business development.

Concanaco President (Ricardo Dager) expressed the support of the Chambers of Commerce for the price stabilization program.

Commerce, Industrial Development Secretariat Announces Foreign Investments

PA1405231093 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat has announced that Mexico received \$2.755 billion in foreign capital during the first quarter of 1993. With this investment, the total foreign investment in the country during the current administration equals \$28.879 billion. This amount surpassed the goal for the entire six years of the current administration by 20.3 percent. The government office also reported that at the end of March, the historic total amount of foreign investment in the country reached approximately \$53 billion. It added that the investments obtained through the stock market equaled \$1.268 billion during the first quarter of 1993, which is 45 percent of the total foreign investments received.

El Salvador

Cristiani Says FMLN Behind Strikes, Demonstrations

PA1605042493 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 15 May 93 p 4

[Text] The government reported on 14 May that the strikes at the ministries, the street demonstrations, and an attack on two police officers by a group of agitators are part of a destabilization plan launched by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN].

This information is from President Alfredo Cristiani and Vice President Francisco Merino, who said the authorities have documents that prove the participation of the FMLN and its front groups in the wave of demonstrations.

Cristiani said the government had confirmed that FMLN agitators, who are not employed by the Public Works Ministry, participated in a recent strike at that Ministry.

According to the president, the FMLN has also infiltrated a group of disabled Armed Forces members in an attempt to manipulate their problems and the delays in the distribution of land, which the FMLN has provoked, for its own benefit.

Cristiani also reasserted he will not violate the Constitution by signing labor agreements with the International Labor Organization (ILO), including an agreement on freedom to organize a labor union in government facilities.

"This is not a capricious government attitude; it is something essential, meaning the Constitution of the Republic, which the Salvadorans are duty bound to respect," he said.

The president said the government will not pay salaries for the days public works employees failed to work. "If they want to work overtime to make up for lost time, that is up to them. They cannot be paid what they have failed to earn," he said.

The president gave the statement shortly before inaugurating a potable water system in Guluchapa, Ilopango jurisdiction.

Assembly Ratifies Central American Court of Justice

PA1505170493 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] The Legislative Assembly on 14 May ratified the agreement creating the Central American Court of Justice as part of the area's integration system.

The Central American Court of Justice, which will begin functioning when all the area countries ratify the agreement outlining its statutes, will settle legal disputes between signatory countries.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] In principle, the court will settle legal disputes among the states as the former Central American Court in Cartago once did. [end recording]

There has been no regional justice court since the 1920's, when the court that existed at that time disappeared after settling disputes between Nicaragua and our country on shared control over territorial waters in the Gulf of Fonseca.

In addition to ratifying the agreement creating the top tribunal in the isthmus, the full Assembly on 14 May heard a request by Deputy (Gerardo Sumiyaga) to raise the maximum sentence for some criminal offenses to 100 years instead of the current 30 years.

[Begin (Sumiyaga) recording] Sentences for crimes against life and personal welfare, such as homicide, murder, and abortion, are raised in this bill. [end recording]

(Sumiyaga's) bill, to be studied by the Legislation Committee, changes over 10 articles in the criminal code.

Guatemala

President Serrano Comments on Captain Contreras' Escape

PA1405230193 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 May 93

[Interview with President Serrano by unidentified reporter in Guatemala City on 14 May—recorded]

[Text] [Serrano] I was informed of the sentence the appeals court gave to Captain Contreras. Unfortunately, Capt. Contreras escaped from the Marshal Zabala Brigade headquarters [words indistinct]. As an Army we are absolutely and totally willing to respect and enforce the de jure state and the country's legality. I want to make it absolutely clear that the escape was not an institutional action; it did not have the consent or support of the Armed Forces Command or that of the people who head the Marshal Zabala headquarters.

Nevertheless, on the morning of 14 May I visited the Armed Forces Command and (?met) with the defense minister, the chief of staff, and the Armed Forces general commander. We made a serious evaluation of the events and decided to adopt disciplinary measures which, of course, will unfortunately affect honorable and capable officers, who I am sure are not at fault for this escape. Unfortunately, however, whatever happens or does not happen within a military command is the commander's responsibility. Thus, the Armed Forces High Command decided on 14 May to arrest the commander of the Marshal Zabala headquarters and the chief of guards who was on duty at the time when the escape took place or may have taken place, and to also take disciplinary action against the troops that made mistakes in surveillance, thus making this incident possible.

I view this situation with great concern because there may be a belief that there was some type of conspiracy. I am sure there was not, but it is our duty to conduct a thorough investigation of the ultimate consequences. We proposed (?disciplinary measures) because we believe they are necessary. I must point out that it is the first time that a captain [as heard] has been arrested. This, of course, is difficult for the Armed Forces High Command because we know that Colonel Miranda is a good officer of considerable moral qualities and we are absolutely certain that he is not guilty. Unfortunately, however, he is responsible for the command.

I met with Col. Miranda to inform him of the High Command's decision, which is difficult for us, but it must be fulfilled to save the prestige and good name of the Armed Forces. It is the duty of the Armed Forces to protect the de jure state and the civilian system and it does so with firm conviction. Therefore, we are informing the Guatemalan people of this decision and we are determined to find Capt. Hugo Contreras, whom we will provide with every opportunity to pursue his defense with the guarantees established in Guatemala's de jure system. Contreras' case has not been closed; he can still file petitions but, unfortunately, he must be detained so those petitions can be filed.

[Reporter] Where will he be taken if he is found?

[Serrano] If he is found, he must unquestionably be taken to a more secure detention center.

Serrano 'Determined' To Restore Order

PA1505043293 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO
in Spanish 14 May 93 p 2

[Text] On 13 May, President Jorge Serrano warned that he is determined to restore order and that he will not tolerate any more disturbances, even if he has to declare a state of emergency. "Enough is enough," he said.

Serrano spoke in Chichicastenango during an event related to the Maya World. He had to shorten his visit when he learned that student Abner Hernandez Orellana had died. Serrano said the student's demise was unfortunate and that he was returning to Guatemala City for this reason.

He said his government will take many actions to end student disturbances. He commented that he personally witnessed the destruction of the Commerce Institute and Central Teachers Institute for Boys by 30 or 40 students, in an action he described as ungrateful. "I will not tolerate this any longer. It is over," he said.

He reiterated that he will "restore order" with the most drastic measures. He added that this situation of violence and disturbances might have been created by small groups upset by the Solidarity Action Movement electoral victory in the 9 May municipal elections. "This is a reaction of those who attempt to invalidate my party's

overwhelming victory in the municipal elections, in which the people supported me," he added.

Archbishopric Issues Communique on Student-Government Conflict

PA1405124693 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 May 93

["Press Communique" issued by the Human Rights Office of the Archbishopric of Guatemala in Guatemala City on 13 May]

[Text] The Human Rights Office of the Archbishopric of Guatemala, in view of the existing conflict between the students and government, expresses:

1. Its concern with the acts of violence that occurred on 11 and 12 May in the vicinity of education centers located in the downtown area of the capital city, because they endangered the lives of many persons, above all, of young students.
2. Its concern because the state has maintained an inflexible attitude throughout the entire negotiation process with the students on the topic of the use of urban transportation, among others, resulting in the use of violence on the part of both sectors. The use of the penal, police, tribunal system, and minors' detention centers, which should be the state's last resort in light of a social conflict, reflects that any pedagogy of negotiation flexibility, and creativity involving the new generations has been ignored. Without education, a state of law based on absolute respect for human rights cannot be built.
3. Its alarm, because this type of disturbance strengthens intransigent and undemocratic positions and promotes a climate of instability to increase threats, aggressions, and all types of acts of violence against popular sectors.
4. Its concern that violence is being used as a mechanism of pressure to solve conflicts. The legitimate right of dissension should be based on peaceful means to avert major social conflicts.
5. Its repudiation of the killing of student Abner Abdiel Hernandez Orellana, who was the victim of the 11 May acts of violence, and the threats and intimidations against student leaders.

It demands, therefore, that the government:

1. Investigate and determine responsibilities for the death of student Hernandez Orellana.
2. Pursue an immediate solution to the problem of the student identification card, showing sensitivity and understanding regarding the students' problems.
3. Contribute to establishing a climate of stability, giving attention to the causes and not effects of the problems, and maintain an open and permanent dialogue with the different sectors, in order to provide peaceful solutions to the country's socioeconomic problems.

4. Guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of student leaders and of other popular organizations and people in general.

It appeals to students to:

1. Exercise their rights within the bounds of prudence and the law.
2. Resume peaceful mechanisms to solve current and other problems.
3. Use all existing legal mechanisms to clarify the killing of student Hernandez Orellana and determine responsibilities to prevent provocations that would lead to further acts of violence.

Car Bomb Detonated Near Vehicle 15 May; 2 Injured

PA1505170193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1639 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 15 May (NOTIMEX)—Firefighters have confirmed that unidentified persons on 15 May detonated a car bomb near a vehicle of the state-owned electricity enterprise, seriously injuring two persons.

Defense Minister Says Rebels Forming 'Urban Insurgent Cells'

PA1505044093 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 14 May 93 p 8

[Text] Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa confirmed on 13 May that the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity is again forming commandos on the outskirts of Guatemala City and that the security forces should heighten their level of alertness.

Prior to a meeting with several deputies, the military chief confirmed that the guerrillas are forming urban commandos. He said that urban insurgent cells are operating on the southern coast and assured that former Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front fighters from El Salvador are supporting the Guatemalan rebels.

Garcia added that during the latest clash between insurgents and Army troops, three guerrillas were killed but it has been impossible to establish their identity. He assured that military intelligence has and still is cooperating with the National Police, which is now facing an emergency situation with the student demonstrations.

According to the minister, if a state of siege of sorts now exists in downtown Guatemala City, it was prompted by students who threatened public security. He said that "the National Police has its reasons" for its actions and added that by order of the general commander of the Armed Forces (President Serrano) the Army might eventually cooperate with the National Police.

Losses in 11 May Disturbances in Capital Amount to 1 Million Quetzales

PA1405134193 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 13 May 93 p 5

[Report by Ricardo Gatica Trejo]

[Text] According to a preliminary police estimate, the losses caused by the 11 May disturbances in the capital's center amount to one million quetzales. The losses include two city busses, which were set afire, and two damaged police patrol cars.

At 2100, on Petapa Avenue and 31st Street in Zone 12, university students ignited and destroyed a special bus driven by Saul Calderon Martinez. In addition, several university business school students set on fire bus 75, which is owned by EGA enterprises and driven by Dagoberto Roldan, on 10th Avenue in Zone 1. During the disturbances, all of the windows of patrol cars 12 and 28 were shattered.

Twelve persons, three adults: Marvin Alfredo Hernandez Campos, Jose Emanuel Mancilla Barillas, and Emilio Morales Macario, and nine minors were arrested.

TSE Issues Results of 9 May Municipal Elections

PA1405130393 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 11 May 93 p 2

[All numbers as published]

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) on 10 May issued the results of the municipal elections held on 9 May throughout the country.

After tallying up the votes in 269 of the 276 municipalities where elections were held, the official party [Solidarity Action Movement, MAS] won the majority of the mayorships; that is, 100 mayorships representing 37.17 percent; followed by the Guatemalan Christian Democracy [DC] 40, representing 14.87 percent; then by the Union of the National Center [UCN] 37, representing 13.75 percent; and finally the National Vanguard Party, 33, representing 12.27 percent.

The traditional parties participated together in the elections but jointly they did not win more than 19 mayorships (7.06 percent). The participation of a large number of civic committees was observed. Nevertheless, although more than 100 committees participated, they obtained only 20 mayorships (7.43 percent).

During the last days of the campaign the UCN, MAS, and DC had internal problems due to the "alliance" or to "a legislative agreement" that had been made some time back. Despite these problems, these three traditional parties and others joined forces and together they obtained 20 mayorships (7.43 percent).

The electoral process went smoothly, although there were some problems in certain voting centers. This was

particularly true in Chinautla, Guatemala Department, where the elections will be challenged as certain irregularities were observed during the voting process. A similar case came up in San Miguel Uspatan, Quiche Department, where the election center was attacked by several persons who burned the ballots.

The TSE magistrates and political leaders from the diverse parties appeared pleased with the electoral process, nevertheless, they regretted that the abstention rate, as expected, was over 60 percent.

According to TSE President Arturo Herbruger Asturias, the low voter turnout is the result of a lack of enthusiasm by the community, even though this may be generated by various factors. "During the intermediate elections this phenomena always occurs in comparison to the general elections," he noted.

Honduras

Congress Issues Decree on Attorney General's Removal

PA1405221693 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish
14 May 93 p 62

[Decree issued by National Congress in Tegucigalpa on 13 May]

[Text] Decree No. [no number as published]

The National Congress

Whereas: Citizen Leonardo Matute Murillo was elected first primer deputy of the Central American Parliament on 26 November 1989;

Whereas: The sovereign National Congress elected citizen and lawyer Leonardo Matute Murillo as attorney general of the Republic while the official installation of the Central American Parliament was still pending;

Whereas: The Central American Parliament began official and permanent operations, in accordance with its charter instruments, on 28 October 1991;

Whereas: Citizens are obliged, except for justified excuses, to fulfill the duties of their popularly elected posts;

Whereas: Article 37, Point 1 of the Basic Law of the Attorney General's Office states the attorney general may not occupy any other post or job; and the fact that citizen and lawyer Leonardo Matute Murillo was elected Central American Parliament deputy, which is a popularly elected post that he is obliged to exercise, creates a major irregularity; thus, based on Article 35 of the same law, the sovereign National Congress is empowered to revoke the election of lawyer Leonardo Matute Murillo as attorney general of the Republic.

Decrees: Article 1—To revoke immediately the election of citizen and lawyer Leonardo Matute Murillo as attorney general of the Republic and repeal Decree No. 3-90 issued by the National Congress on 26 January 1990, thus, the legal replacement should assume his duties.

Article 2—This decree will be effective immediately and must be published in the LA GACETA official newspaper.

[Issued] National Congress, 13 May 1993

[Signed] Rodolfo Irias Navas, president

Andres Abelino Torres, secretary

Carmen Elisa Lobo de Garcia, secretary

Callejas Reacts to Removal

PA1405182093 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network
in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 May 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Rafael Callejas reacted after learning that the Congress removed Leonardo Matute Murillo from his post as attorney general. Matute is in Venezuela.

[Begin recording] [Callejas] I believe, or at least what I have heard, the Congress has withdrawn its permission to serve as attorney general. In that context, the congress has acted in accordance with the law.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you happy or pleased about the removal?

[Callejas] I am pleased the Congress is capable of making the best decision, from an administrative point of view. Apparently there was a violation of the legislation or internal regulations of the Congress, in light of the fact that a deputy was serving as attorney general. They should have made this decision some time ago.

[Reporter] Do you agree with how quickly the congress completed the action?

[Callejas] The congress works on many other aspects and, obviously, it must make decisions on political issues also. [end recording]

Gulf Technical Cooperation Agreement Signed With Guatemala

PA1405235493 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish
14 May 93 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Guatemalan Vice President Gustavo Espina Salguero and Honduran Vice President Roberto Martinez Lozano on 13 May signed an "Agreement for Technical Cooperation on the Gulf of Honduras." Through the agreement, more than \$1 million will be invested to benefit the border area of the two countries.

The ceremony was held at the Presidential House. The two countries will receive technical assistance from the OAS and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, for the development of the project.

According to the terms of the agreement, Tegucigalpa and Guatemala City will serve as headquarters for the project, which will have a two-year formulation phase and an estimated cost of \$1.27 million.

The basic objective of the agreement is the preparation of a package of investment proposals for the border area within the framework of a comprehensive development plan that will specify projects that can be presented for immediate financing.

In addition to contributing to the social and economic integration of the border region, the agreement is directed at achieving the growth of the area's productive capacity, increasing the income level and the standard of living of the majority of the population, and achieving the conservation and sustainable development of the natural resources, environment, and cultural heritage of the sector.

The ceremony was also attended by OAS representative Guillermo Molina Lopez and IICA representative Rodolfo Martinez Ferrate.

Nicaragua

Presidency Minister Comments on Visit to U.S., Dialogue

PA1405235593 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network 0230 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The national dialogue promoted by President Violeta Chamorro was well received in various U.S. sectors, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo said in Washington. Lacayo held meetings with Democratic and Republican senators and congressmen, as well as officials from the Clinton administration.

Lacayo said the country needs to advance the harvest season, and to achieve this the president convened national dialogue representatives, who are knowledgeable on the subject, to discuss the topic.

[Begin Lacayo recording] My time has been well spent at meetings with representatives from the Clinton administration in the State Department, especially with Deputy Secretary Clifford Wharton, with whom we met for approximately one hour. We also met with Democratic and Republican Party congressmen and senators.

We are basically trying to explain to this country's authorities what is going on in Nicaragua, especially now in our third year in government. We told them we are holding a national dialogue; we told them about our country's outlook, our economic problems, the need for international support, and the commitment of the Nicaraguan people to talk about our economic and political problems. I believe our message has been well received in the United States, a country that has had so much to do with our history.

The United States is closely following the events in Nicaragua and I think they have viewed with great satisfaction that amid the huge difficulties experienced by our people, amid the unemployment and poverty, Nicaraguans continue to give strong signals that they want to solve their problems and their differences through a dialogue and by looking for realistic solutions.

I believe this is good for us because the world understands that we are making progress in the area of democracy in our country. This increases the possibilities for countries, such as the United States, to support us.

Dialogue is a synonym for democracy. A dialogue is the opposite of violence. When a country takes this path, the country wins and the country casts an image of civilization. I believe the most important topics of consensus were discussed last week. We are now entering a second round of talks, which will also generate a greater consensus in our society to determine how we can guarantee the success of the harvest season; to determine how we can discuss other topics of national interest, such as the environment; to find a final solution to the property problem, and other matters, which the president will announce to the Nicaraguan people at the proper time.

The Violeta Chamorro government will always be on the side of the Nicaraguan people and the aid the people need. That is why, with Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal and Ambassador Roberto Mayorga, we have been visiting congressmen and Clinton administration officials to talk about the support this country gives Nicaragua; to talk about the aid disbursement, which had been delayed; the disbursement for 1993; as well as the aid they plan to give us in 1994. These are the topics we discussed with them because, I repeat, we are very interested in getting our people, especially the poorest people, to receive the support of this generous country.

The most important thing is that each one of the organizations should designate the two most knowledgeable people to defend their viewpoint at the national dialogue, at the working table. These people should be well versed on the needs, the priorities, and the ideas they are going to present to the remaining sectors.

As government, we are going to be well prepared, including the people from the Agriculture Ministry, the National Institute for Agrarian Reform, the Nicaraguan Natural Resources and Environment Institute, the people from the Banco Nacional and Banco Nicaraguense, and even the people from the Construction and Transportation Ministry in charge of road repairs, and other government offices in charge of guaranteeing the success of the harvest season, as the president has requested. We all agreed at the national dialogue that we have to ensure the success of the harvest season and we are going to work without respite with all the country's sectors to achieve this. The important thing is that we have to contribute all possible solutions and concrete ideas. [end recording]

**'Let's Save Democracy' Movement Demands
Creation of Truth Commission**

PA1405130693 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish
2200 GMT 13 May 93

[Text] In a news conference at the National Assembly on the morning of 13 May, UNO [National Opposition Union] Deputy Humberto Castilla Matamoros reported that the "Let's Save Democracy" movement addressed a note to U.S. congressmen demanding the creation of a truth commission, which Minister Antonio Lacayo has accepted; so, the entire truth on the Nicaraguan situation can be revealed.

According to Castilla, the note read that the national dialogue will serve to improve the government's political prestige abroad, which is marred by the cogovernment with the Sandinists. The UNO political council is expected to take a firm stand in the national dialogue for the good of all Nicaraguans.

The reinstallation of military bases in El Ayote, Chontales Department, disturbs the stability that the country has tried to establish and could lead to bloody incidents, Castilla said.

*** Views on FSLN-Government Ties Reported**

93CA0107C Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish No
130, 1-14 Apr 93 p 5

[Article by Orlando Castillo Estrada: "FSLN Keeping Its Distance"]

[Text] After a top-secret two-day meeting of the members of the Sandinist Assembly, the National Directorate of that party released a "communique" and a "statement" to the media announcing their agreements and resolutions on internal matters related to party organization per se, and on political matters related to the current crisis in the country. In what various political and diplomatic sources interpret as an effort at precision and clarification in defining the relationship between the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the government, the statement confirms what General Secretary Daniel Ortega said several weeks ago regarding the things the party has in common with the government. On this occasion, it specifically refers to the search for peace, stability, and establishing the rule of law. After a lot of speculation among the Sandinist rank and file, the leadership of right-wing parties, and top officials of the U.S. Government, based on Daniel Ortega's statement about points in common with the government, this official statement declares that "the FSLN does not practice or seek cogovernment," and it invites its members to "struggle from the opposition" to defend economic and social rights. Ortega's words had been used by the rightist opposition to accuse the government of collaborating with the Sandinists and thus to justify the campaign of the National Opposition Union (UNO), with the support of Republican politicians in the United States, to block economic aid to Nicaragua and to exert pressure on

Antonio Lacayo, minister of the presidency, and Humberto Ortega, commander of the Army, to step down.

EL SEMANARIO interviewed various sources regarding this aspect of the statement, and they expressed opinions about how the Sandinist delegation may behave in the National Assembly. Since the beginning of the current legislative session, the Sandinists have entered into alliances with "centrist" deputies of the UNO who are loyal to the administration, joining them in forming the executive board of parliament.

Along these lines, the FSLN's decision not to send a representative to support the government at the key meeting in Paris with the group of "donor countries," unlike previous meetings, has drawn the attention of political observers who are still analyzing some of the issues discussed in the statement issued by the Sandinist Assembly.

Along with the aforementioned assertions and decisions and the FSLN's rejection of the initiatives to privatize public services, as well as the demand for a true rule of law, the key aspect of the statement is seen by political sources as a new phase in the FSLN's relations with the government. During this phase, it reportedly will be distancing itself from the government on sensitive issues of national life that have prompted certain sectors of the party to take a stand, and that have led to the emergence of opinion groups or currents that have expressed their views in articles, declarations, and debates in the country's newspapers and radio broadcasts. Other sources interviewed by EL SEMANARIO believe that the emergence of these opinion groups as a political phenomenon within the FSLN is viewed with distrust by members of the Sandinist Assembly. They base this assertion on Point 4 of the communique, which says that "the FSLN should not waste its energy on sterile discussions, but should strengthen itself through direct work with the popular sectors."

Political analysis bulletins, such as CABLE CENTROAMERICANO, citing alleged "sources" who attended the Sandinist meeting over the weekend, have also reported that there were far more "departmental political secretaries" than other assembly members at the meeting. Aside from conjecture about what may or may not have occurred there, the political secretaries of some departments, such as Matagalpa, Esteli, and Managua, did hold meetings prior to the assembly. If they represent the most conservative opinions, as others represent the reformist ideas and still others the modernist position, it is only internal democracy among the Sandinist rank and file that will allow these ideas to flourish.

For the time being, the decision to condemn "political terrorism" and the need to continue working to "expand and consolidate" relations with the Socialist International and its most progressive parties give a strong impetus to the efforts to bring the FSLN in line with the contemporary international situation.

*** FSLN's Approach to Key Issues Praised***93CA0107D Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
30 Mar 93 p 11*

[Editorial: "The Sandinists and the Dialogue"]

[Text] Yesterday, at the end of two days of closed-door meetings, the Sandinist Assembly of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) issued a statement announcing the willingness of the country's principal opposition party to participate in a national dialogue, to be convened without prior conditions.

The Sandinist statement says that the party has decided to work for a national understanding with all political and productive sectors to "achieve minimum political and economic agreements to contribute to stability, democracy, and peace in the nation." And it defines as the principal objectives of a national dialogue the prevention of a new armed confrontation and the solution to the serious economic and social crisis afflicting the Nicaraguan people.

The fact that the Sandinist party is rallying around these proposals contributes to the nation's stability and should mean progress in the complex process of bringing the potential participants in a national dialogue closer together.

The Sandinist movement is radically different from the other political forces in the country because of its numerical strength—it is the only party with a true national presence—and because of the qualitative weight of its members' political vitality as they undergo a process of party democratization never before seen in our nation's political history. Furthermore, it is the only party to escape the top-heavy formula of the "political class" and to be rooted in strong labor union movements and trade, production, and social organizations that are not organically dependent on the party, but do identify with the political postulates of Sandinism.

Perhaps because it represents a pluri-class movement with a clear popular vocation, present in all sociopolitical spheres of Nicaragua, the Sandinist movement has managed to grasp the magnitude of the national crisis in a way that other parties have refused to do.

In an era when political parties all over Latin America are being seriously questioned by voters anxious to find lasting solutions to their most pressing problems, Nicaragua is no exception. Recent surveys conducted by sociologists and research centers confirm that the main concerns of the popular sectors are unemployment, poverty, and declining health, not the shares of power over which the "political class" is fighting.

Thus, for broad sectors of the population, the search for an arrangement agreed upon among the upper echelons of political power—as some have proposed in recent days—is not likely to guarantee comprehensive solutions to their serious socio-economic problems, which demand

the participation of other players with true representativeness in the productive sphere.

The FSLN's approach, in fact, has emphasized the need to reach political and economic agreements. In this sense, it is closer to responding not only to the expectations of its own rank and file, but also to those of other national forces that are yearning, perhaps not for an idyllic national accord, but for the minimum framework necessary for raising the country up from its prostration.

*** FSLN Leftist Views Require Change***93CA0107B Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish No
130, 1-14 Apr 93 p 3*

[Commentary by Erick Aguirre]

[Text] Most of the terms of the resolutions drafted at the recent regular session of the Sandinist Assembly of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) strike me as reasonable.

I think it is a good idea to get right to the point and advocate dialogue, peace, and above all, a well-structured and well-organized alternative economic solution, something that had not even been proposed until now.

People cannot go on believing that it is enough to engage in determinist rhetoric to help bring about the changes the country needs for its development.

Until a short time ago, that same determinism was invoked to smooth over possible differences with the trade union sectors of the Sandinist movement itself, but now that those sectors have become the owners of certain infrastructures in what is most probably a bankruptcy procedure, the inherent temptation of that position still comes through loud and clear in communiqués.

Until now, the criticism of the government for attempting to apply its economic plan was generally accompanied by obstacles, protests, and sometimes even boycotts with ulterior motives, as well as a very unique political action called "cogovernment" by the extreme right.

No specific economic alternative was ever presented in response to this pigheaded adjustment plan. It should be noted, of course, that what is being presented now is just a proposal, a project, a suggested alternative.

I think that the determinist rhetoric that has plagued Sandinism at times has been a response to the leadership's need to feel that they are still leftists. But the concept of leftist, like everything in life, is relative. One is a leftist only in relation to something else, and who can tell me honestly whether this government is centrist, leftist, or extreme rightist?

It is wrong to think that at this point in Nicaragua's history, the struggles and disagreements among groups, fronts, parties, or "polarized" coalitions are the cause of the acceptance or rejection of such abstract terms as

liberty and social justice. These are already contradictory in and of themselves, and for some time now they have both been claimed by everyone across the spectrum, including the extreme right.

Everyone has his own idea of what liberty is, in accordance with his way of viewing the world, or the way he has always been willing to view it. We must accept that. It is no coincidence that some people now speak of the "kingdom of diversity."

Social struggles are no longer determined by the interests of a single class, but by those of the myriad actors who today make up civil society, who have a diversity of interests among themselves. In fact, I think that here and now, one is "leftist" to the extent that one participates in social and economic development. We cannot continue to be slaves to our own dogmas, to decalogues and catechisms that we created ourselves to deceive ourselves into thinking that our consciences are clear.

In organizations such as the FSLN, it is dangerous to promote the political egotism of the most prominent members at the expense of any concern for "the feelings of the rank and file" or "the good of the people," because that reflection of internal stagnation is projected toward the rest of society in such a way that it can damage not only the front itself as an organization, but also the democratic transition that our country still needs to complete. I am surprised that many FSLN columnists applauded and at some point endorsed the results and consequences of the Truth Report in El Salvador; and now, that the top representatives of the FSLN are rejecting such a possibility in Nicaragua and branding it interference (an assertion with which I cannot honestly disagree). The most absolute silence follows.

At first I found it strange to hear Commander Villalobos accepting the results of the report, although with a few objections and valid criticisms, in such a way that it ended up looking like a political victory for the Salvadoran left. Now I read his statements in Nicaragua, and I am surprised at the severe tone he takes when talking about the same results, as if to reinforce the position of the local left that such an investigation would be unacceptable in Nicaragua.

The liberal democrats seem to be confusing us with their trick of painting everything in black and white. We are falling into the trap of behaving like politicians, acting the way the "political class" of the traditional right has always acted.

* Aleman's Handling of City Budget Reported

93CA0107E Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish No 129, 25-31 Mar 93 pp 8-9

[Unattributed article: "Managua Mayor's Office Near Bankruptcy"]

[Text] The facsimiles we are reproducing here show the revenues and outlays of the Managua Mayor's Office.

The conclusion is clear: budget deficit, serious problems in implementation, and imbalances in spending priorities. The city government spent less than the amount budgeted for public works projects in the districts, but it exceeded budgeted allocations for salaries, overtime, per diems, travel allowances, advertising, and other expenditures, while spending a paltry amount on social benefits for employees.

An analysis of the accounting books of the Managua mayor's office reveals that the bottom line is either corruption or administrative inefficiency.

This January alone, the mayor's office—despite its slogan "accountability and change"—generated some 51,271 cordobas in red ink. In February, the mayor's office took in 11 million cordobas in revenues, while its outlays amounted to more than 15 million.

When the deficit of the first two months of the year is added up, we have an overall shortfall of more than 3 million cordobas for this office.

According to information that has been gathered, all indications are that Mayor Arnoldo Aleman is driving the mayor's office to bankruptcy, considering the additional fact that in his financial report for last year he was unable to explain how he spent 42.5 million cordobas over budget without the approval of the City Council.

Any accounting apprentice knows that if the budget for January 1993 calls for a surplus of 613,430 cordobas and the result is a deficit of 664,701.47 cordobas, the most logical thing to do is to make a number of corrections and set up internal controls, rather than continuing the deficit spending into February and going a total of 4 million cordobas into the red. According to some information compiled by EL SEMANARIO, most of the spending in January and February was for overtime (800,000 cordobas), per diems (190,000), and hospitality expenses (95,000 in January and 114,000 in February).

One of the most excessive items is Mayor Aleman's advertising campaign, which cost 667,144 cordobas in January and 461,000 in February. Travel abroad during those two months cost 675,000 cordobas.

Just on the item labeled "other personal services" the mayor's office spent 108,979 cordobas in January and 128,649 in February.

This data shows that the spending is suspicious and extremely excessive. The question arises: Why does the Managua mayor's office spend so much on overtime if the social projects on which it spends the taxpayers' money do not exceed normal working hours?

Furthermore, according to the copies of the revenue and outlay reports for the months of January and February 1993 and the general consolidated expense report for February, it is clear that the Managua mayor's office not only overspent its budget, but also displayed serious implementation problems and proportional imbalances in spending priorities.

On the one hand, it spent less than the budgeted amount (162,269.00 cordobas) for implementing projects in the districts and for municipal investments, while, on the other hand, it overspent its budget for salaries, overtime, per diems, travel expenses, advertising, etc. (4,865,239.94 cordobas, more than the budget allocation). It also invested a paltry sum in social benefits for its employees. In this

category, the budget called for outlays of 920,103.00 cordobas, and only 530,413.22 was spent, almost half a million cordobas short of the projected amount.

Moreover, 143,709.46 cordobas was spent on land purchases without any budget allocation for that item, and without any apparent justification. Where? For what? We leave it to your imagination.

Revenue and Outlay Report—January 1993 (actual)

Source of Revenues	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
Beginning balance	921,765.40		921,765.40
Revenues collected during the month	13,818,980.24	13,261,020.00	557,960.24
Total revenues	14,740,745.64	13,261,020.00	1,479,725.64
Outlays			
Current Spending	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
Salaries, vacations, overtime, per diems, hospitality expenses, severance, and others	5,002,401.42	4,763,005.00	239,396.42
Telephone, water, electricity, advertising, printing, travel expenses, rental, maintenance, social affairs, and others	2,608,057.30	987,006.00	1,621,051.30
Purchase of stationery, tires and tubes, fuels and lubricants, office supplies, parts and accessories, and others	1,998,430.39	1,861,184.00	137,246.39
Social benefits for employees, donations, Social Security contributions, training, and others	807,919.81	1,307,919.00	(499,999.19)
Interest on debt	52,757.06	0.00	52,757.06
	10,469,565.98	8,919,114.00	1,550,451.98
Capital Outlays			
Purchase of machinery and office equipment, engineering, and others	1,519,709.80	623,864.00	895,845.80
Purchase of real property (land)*	143,709.46	0.00*	143,709.46
Implementation of minor projects in districts	25,705.00	186,457.00	(160,752.00)
Municipal investments, contractors	1,597,960.11	2,918,155.00	(1,320,194.89)
Debt principal	260,000.00	0.00	260,000.00
	3,547,084.37	3,728,476.00	(181,391.63)
Advance Payments			
To districts	183,996.99	0.00	183,996.99
To personnel	591,369.77	0.00	591,369.77
	775,366.76	0.00	775,366.76
Total outlays	14,792,017.11	12,647,590.00	2,144,427.11
Balance	(51,271.47)	613,430.00	(664,701.47)

Revenue and Outlay Report—February 1993 (actual)

Description			
Source of Revenues	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
Beginning balance	(51,271.47)	613,430.00	(664,701.47)
Revenues collected during the month	11,663,096.12	10,547,345.00	1,115,751.12
Total revenues	11,611,824.65	11,160,775.00	451,049.65
Outlays			
Current Spending	Actual	Budgeted	Difference
Salaries, vacations, overtime, per diems, hospitality expenses, severance, and others	4,865,239.94	4,723,821.00	141,418.94
Telephone, water, electricity, advertising, printing, travel expenses, rental, maintenance, social affairs, and others	2,996,823.46	780,547.00	2,216,276.46
Purchase of stationery, tires and tubes, fuels and lubricants, office supplies, parts and accessories, and others	2,598,267.31	1,368,833.00	1,229,434.31
Social benefits for employees, donations, Social Security contributions, training, and others	530,413.22	920,103.00	(389,689.78)
Interest on debt	0.00	0.00	0.00
	10,990,743.93	7,793,304.00	3,197,439.93
Capital Outlays			
Purchase of machinery and office equipment, engineering, and others	1,036,098.30	537,090.00	499,008.30
Purchase of real property (land)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Implementation of minor projects in districts	35,544.95	162,269.00	(126,724.05)
Municipal investments, contractors	2,810,778.65	2,217,146.00	593,632.65
Debt principal	0.00	0.00	0.00
	3,882,421.90	2,916,505.00	965,916.90
Advance Payments			
To districts	182,768.63	0.00	182,768.63
To personnel	167,674.80	0.00	167,674.80
	350,443.43	0.00	350,443.43
Total outlays	15,223,609.26	10,709,809.00	4,513,800.26
Balance	(3,611,784.61)	450,966.00	(4,062,750.61)

* Cristiana Chamorro on U.S., LA PRENSA

93CA0107F Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish No 130, 1-14 Apr 93 pp 13-15

[Interview with LA PRENSA President Cristiana Chamorro by Angela Saballos; place and date not given; first six paragraphs are EL SEMANARIO introduction]

[Text] "No, I prefer not to talk about LA PRENSA, Angelita. The internal problems of LA PRENSA that you are asking me about should not be dealt with in any medium other than LA PRENSA itself, in my opinion.

Yes, I do see other members of the LA PRENSA staff talking, that is true, but I had better not." So we began talking about her observations as a journalist and as a personal friend of some of the members of the new Clinton administration, with whom she spoke on a recent visit to Washington with her husband Antonio.

A year short of her 40th birthday, Cristiana Chamorro Barrios still looks the same to me as she did when I first met her, when she began grade school at La Asuncion: the same smile, the same hair, the surprised expression on her face, her shy demeanor. The third child, second daughter in a family of four children, she grew up in a

certain atmosphere of complicity with her father, who confided to her his dreams and troubles before he was assassinated in 1978 and became the "Martyr of Public Liberties," as our mass media baptized him.

Years later, Ms. Chamorro worked alongside her mother in a political project that made Violeta Chamorro president of Nicaragua. Cristiana, in turn, is married to Antonio Lacayo, minister of the presidency, called by some "the strong man of the government." Cristiana herself is chairman of the board of directors of La Prensa, S.A., a job that has brought her great joy and a lot of stress.

To a certain extent, for those of us who read LA PRENSA, and especially those of us who began our journalism careers on that paper when Pedro Joaquin Chamorro was editor, there is a great deal of curiosity about Cristiana's situation at LA PRENSA (does she have guardian angels who accompany her day and night, never leaving her unprotected?). She writes articles that have whole paragraphs removed; she will write something and the next day—if not in the very same issue—"pinochos" [meaning unknown] will appear, or even editorials clarifying or correcting what she has said.

This is the paper that is the first to publish any news that might be harmful to her husband, Antonio Lacayo, and the last to mention the activities of her mother, Violeta Barrios, president of Nicaragua and one of the owners of the newspaper. And yes, Cristiana is surrounded by angels: She collects images of them. She holds a *licenciatura* degree in philosophy and history from the Central American University (UCA) and a master's degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Ohio. She is much taller than average for a Nicaraguan woman, very thin, someone who might appear in the low-key sections of VOGUE magazine; someone once noted her resemblance to Caroline of Monaco. She has a 10-year-old daughter and a seven-year-old son and is devoted to her family; she loves romantic music. Cristiana seems energetic as she sits in her office, where pictures of her father and children, of historic moments for LA PRENSA, and of her mother predominate, along with some cartoons satirizing Sandinist government officials. On her desk is a wooden pyramid of human figures, what she calls "the pyramid of reconciliation."

Books signed by the authors, papers, and a small computer complete her work space, where newspaper employees are constantly bursting in to ask questions. On this occasion the subject is an opinion piece she wrote on LA PRENSA's treatment of the Tony Ibarra case. The newspaper has called the matter "an unavoidable duty." Under the same title, but with quotation marks, Cristiana defends her position that "it is wrong to say that we give people what they ask for" in the newspaper. "It is more honest to say that we give them what we think we must," says Cristiana, adding later on that "it would have been more in keeping with Truth and Justice (LA PRENSA's slogan) to confess that there was total or partial sympathy with Mr. Ibarra's efforts, and to

acknowledge that the paper was publishing only those parts of his report that it wanted the people to know about."

This is a sample of the daily battles waged by Cristiana Chamorro.

While we talk and she explains to me how she thinks her Sandinist brother and sister and her brother who is a Contra have been consistent with their own philosophies, and how they have treated each other with respect, her two children, Cristiana and Antonio, arrive. They meet their uncle, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, and greet him with affection. We begin talking about her trip to Washington, accompanying her husband Antonio:

[Saballos] You and your mother used to travel a lot. You lobbied in the United States before she was elected president of Nicaragua. The political situation was different back then. What difference do you see now in that government, as the journalist that you are, now that you have just returned from a trip to Washington accompanying your husband the minister of the presidency?

[Chamorro] Between 1984 and 1987 my mother and I carried out a diplomatic offensive in favor of press freedom and democratization in Nicaragua. Now we have come back after achieving what we set out to do: a government elected in free elections, full freedom of the press and information, a democracy. In 1984, as editors of LA PRENSA, when the times were so difficult, we were already convinced that the alternative was to close the door on war and open the way to civic methods of struggle. That was our message and our struggle. In Washington we found that some sectors supported the war, while other sectors responded positively to our proposal. Those sectors are still there, understanding, supporting, and respecting President Chamorro's efforts.

[Saballos] So the contexts have not changed, they are the same?

[Chamorro] It is an established democracy where, as a new American ambassador told me, there is a new attitude, but we had to fight against the established order.

[Saballos] Did you feel that the former administration is still influencing the Clinton administration?

[Chamorro] They are in a transition. In the corridors of Washington you can tell that the machinery is not yet set up. The appointments have been slow in coming, and some of the people from the former administration are being accepted, both in the executive branch and in Congress. The new administration, however, expressed its willingness to consider changes in previous conclusions before reaching new ones. There is a desire not to allow a Republican agenda to take over. The Democrats are fiercely loyal to their party, now that it has come to power after so many years on the outside.

[Saballos] Do you, as a journalist, see any possibility of a change in the Clinton administration's relations with Nicaragua?

[Chamorro] If I were going to write a human interest story, I would illustrate it by saying that the previous administration wore a formal business suit, while the present one dresses in casual attire. You can see the next undersecretary of state, Watson, lining up in the cafeteria, carrying his own tray. You can see the same phenomenon in protocol: Vice President Al Gore comes out of the White House to say goodbye to people and to greet them, the way my mother does sometimes. You can also see how couples work side by side like President Clinton and his wife Hillary, each one working from his or her own perspective. There are several examples of that.

On a personal level, Anthony Lake, of the National Security Council, inscribed a book that he wrote on the fall of Somoza, and I thought what he wrote was a sign of new relations with Latin America. Lake asked forgiveness for "the errors in this book," expressed his wishes for the future, and honored the memory of my father. In his book on the fall of Somoza, Lake mentions the death of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro as a moment when Nicaragua began to emerge "from the ranks of a Central American nation with which the Carter administration had ambiguous, uncomfortable relations." I interpret this statement to mean that they are aware of what the relationship has been like. And if the Kennedy symbolism continues, I think new structures will be created in relations with Latin America.

[Saballos] But what do they say, in particular?

[Chamorro] They talk about a mutual, multiannual agenda in which the differences between one country and another will be recognized, and about arriving at positions based on consensus and an ongoing dialogue among all countries.

[Saballos] You delivered a letter to Hillary Clinton when you met with her in Washington. What did it say?

[Chamorro] It was a personal letter in which I told her that in Nicaragua we are fighting for peace, democracy, and respect for human rights, and that we have faith in the new relationship the United States will have with us.

[Saballos] Are you a politician, Cristiana?

[Chamorro] I am a patriot. I am fascinated by politics, and I live and breathe it.

[Saballos] In what capacity did you go to the United States, to Washington, on this trip with your husband?

[Chamorro] As an observer and a journalist; as a personal representative of my mother at a conference on the disabled organized by the OAS, where the presidents sent personal delegates; and as a companion to Antonio, his constant ally.

[Saballos] I wonder what your situation is like on the paper, where you are chairman of the board of directors, and where there are always pieces against your husband, minister of the presidency, and the activities of your mother as president of the Republic are ignored.

[Chamorro] Angelita, I would prefer not to talk about that. I always think a reconciliation is possible. When I see the statements made by other members of the LA PRENSA staff in other organs of the mass media, I wonder whether, if I decided to talk, a bomb might go off somewhere near the lake.

[Saballos] Why not set off a little bomb and tell me: Do you have freedom of expression at LA PRENSA? I have seen them censor you

[Chamorro] The editors have freedom. Freedom of the press is a relative thing.

[Saballos] Only they can say what they want?

[Chamorro] A coworker was telling me the other day that he could not touch Mayor Aleman.

[Saballos] And this newspaper seems to have become the mayor's newspaper. Is there any money involved here? What is going on?

[Chamorro] I repeat that it is very difficult to talk about the inner workings of LA PRENSA. I do not like it. I do not want it to be that way. You should ask that question of the newspaper's editors. One thing I do regret sometimes is seeing that the paper's agenda has been set aside.

[Saballos] Aside? Who?

[Chamorro] I cannot talk about that.

[Saballos] They are always correcting what you say, they cut out whole paragraphs. What happened with the page on the university students?

[Chamorro] For a long time we defended the right to dissent, the right to freedom of expression. One of the rights we won was my right to express my dissent against a decision made by the editors. When I saw a clarifying statement saying that I had interfered in a matter where I did not belong, I laughed because everyone has the right to express an opinion about whatever they want in this country. I thought that statement was a step back into the past. It is a kind of dictatorial syndrome, a sign of verticalism, turning away from fraternal dialogue. There is no longer any room for attitudes like that in Nicaragua.

[Saballos] This paper seems like it is in opposition to Violeta de Chamorro's government. Is that a political problem, a dispute among shareholders, a family without loyalty?

[Chamorro] The problem is complex, but it can be solved. It is a mixture of outdated notions of journalism, political interests, a concept of power based on ownership, and a generational problem. I commented on the

search for a consensus. When he came here, I told my brother Pedro that we should start out with a relationship of mutual respect, and I expressed the same view to the board of directors. Unfortunately, they had a different agenda; they wanted to neutralize one with the other. That is a challenge: reconciliation within LA PRENSA.

[Saballos] Whose idea was it?

[Chamorro] Some members of the board of directors.

[Saballos] Family?

[Chamorro] Family. But really for political interests. We brothers and sisters face a great challenge with the rest of the family: We must reconcile our interests around LA PRENSA based on a relationship of respect and mutual acceptance. I remember the example of my father, who consolidated this newspaper and lent a hand to his brothers when they were having problems. He brought them to work here, to become part of the great LA PRENSA family. My mother has been very explicit in saying that she will not close the door on any of her children at LA PRENSA.

[Saballos] And is it true that you have thrown in the towel, that you have dropped out of the fight?

[Chamorro] I am still here, here I am. LA PRENSA is in a new phase of its long, 67-year history. I think that moral and professional authority are not attained with the actions of a business firm.

[Saballos] Through your mother and your husband, you have a firsthand view of power. Are you different now than you were before the 1990's?

[Chamorro] I am the same as always, a woman committed to Nicaragua, and Cristiana, just Cristiana.

[Saballos] Does it bother you that your own newspaper attacks your husband and your mother?

[Chamorro] Our conscience is clear, our soul is at peace, and our heart is full of love. They are always trying to drive a wedge between my mother and Antonio.

[Saballos] Who?

[Chamorro] I told you that it is the editors of this newspaper who have freedom of expression.

[Saballos] And how do you feel about the constant expressions of hatred toward you by some sectors?

[Chamorro] Hatred! Hatred? I am not aware of that. The thing is, for a long time, for 20 years, since Antonio and I met, we have dreamed of tearing down the wall that divides Nicaragua. We want to do away with the division that has existed in Nicaragua, that has divided whole families, and now we think it is possible.

[Saballos] That is the reason?

[Chamorro] It is also a cultural problem. Nicaraguans are used to waiting for the pendulum to swing from one side to the other, to have one side taken away and the other put in its place. What people want now is for all of us to be accepted, without exception.

[Saballos] Do you have a political party?

[Chamorro] My party is Nicaragua, and it has always been Nicaragua.

* Investing in Government Bonds Advised

93CA0107A Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish No 130, 1-14 Apr 93 p 10

[Financial Column by Eduardo Estrada M.]

[Text] A controversy has arisen concerning the legal validity of the bonds issued by the government to compensate those whose property was confiscated unjustly. But aside from the legal considerations, which it would be childish to argue about, we should analyze the financial value of these bonds. What value can be assigned to them on the market?

If you deposit 103.66 cordobas over a 20-year term at an interest rate of 12 percent, compounded annually, by the end of the term you would have 1,000 cordobas. In other words, the present value of the 1,000 cordobas that you would have in 20 years is just 103.66 cordobas.

How much are the recently issued government bonds worth? If they were redeemed in 20 years, even at a 3-percent annual interest rate, they would be worth nothing, or practically nothing.

When a bond-holder wants to sell his bond to a fellow citizen, he will try to obtain a minimum yield. Under the present circumstances in Nicaragua, a minimum yield might be 20 percent.

Let us suppose that we buy 1,000 cordobas' worth of government bonds. Their future value, at an annual interest rate of three percent, would be 1,806.11 cordobas. But if you as a buyer want a minimum yield of 20 percent, the present value of that bond would be 47 cordobas.

At that market value, no one who is entitled to compensation bonds would accept them. This is not the case with the property confiscation compensation bonds, because they can be redeemed before they mature.

What are the basic characteristics of the bonds?

In principle, they can be transferred by means of a simple endorsement. Their value is maintained, and they yield an annual interest of 3 percent, among other things.

If these were the only attributes of the bonds, once again, it would make no sense to buy them; but they can also be used to buy government securities, to pay taxes, or to pay

debts to the state banking sector. In addition, the government will auction off the bonds, and when the stock exchange is created, they will be negotiable securities on that market.

So the bonds are a welcome development, as long as they contribute to the compensation of those who had their property confiscated unjustly.

The caveat that should be made, then, is that those who hold compensation bonds should not sell them for peanuts. An unwise decision to sell could cause the holder to suffer.

Many are eager to buy these bonds, and the bond-holders may not have much experience. Consulting with a financial specialist is not a bad idea, as the bonds are indeed worth something, considering the attributes the government has given them. A total of 318 certificates, valued at 19,966 million cordobas, are already circulating on the market, held by 10 individuals.

What is the bonds' market value? Well, we will know shortly. Many will want to buy low and later sell high.

Panama

Chiriqui Policemen Implicated in Plot To Assassinate Endara

PA1605194993 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 16 May 93 p A1

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] The Chiriqui Police will reportedly be purged this coming week following the discovery that corporals, sergeants, and even officers were implicated in a presumed plot to assassinate President Guillermo Endara, ranking government and intelligence sources stated on 15 May.

The purge in the Public Force ranks will be carried out by a disciplinary board chaired by Major Milton Castillo. Maj. Castillo replaced Maj. Ricardo Guardia as chief of the Chiriqui Zone Police last week, the source added.

Investigations carried out by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA reveal that Maj. Edgardo Falcon, who is responsible for the Police Intelligence or Police Investigation and Information Department (DIIP), is in David interrogating the people who are allegedly involved in a network of plots involving civilians, policemen, and former military personnel.

Castillo admitted to LA ESTRELLA on 13 May that policemen are implicated in the conspiracy. He stated: "I believe we are on the threshold of true, informative, firm, and unquestionable elements that will be made public knowledge."

Endara, who is sick with a cold, has not participated in public events for the past seven days. He has survived

three conspiracies, the first on 4 and 5 December 1990 headed by Colonel Eduardo Herrera.

The second was the so-called plan: "Death to the Fat Guy," which also involved Herrera, who is in prison in El Renacer Penitentiary in Gamboa.

The third plot was the thwarted 23 April attack in Boquete, in which Corporal Gabriel Aguirre was killed. The plan implicated an undetermined number of sergeants, between 10 to 15, who are listed in the 500-page dossier of the case.

Juan Chevalier, government and justice minister, announced last week that several persons implicated in the seditious plot had been arrested, but he did not reveal the number of people arrested or their connection with the National Police.

Aguirre was killed on 24 April by a bomb that exploded while he was attempting to plant it in the Flower Festival fairgrounds, headquarters of the Arnulfista Party convention.

"We are investigating to determine if it was just a sergeant or if it was a broader-based plan," sources consulted by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA stated.

Following the thwarted attack, businessman Hector Staff was arrested. He is accused by the prosecutor of the Chiriqui Fifth Circuit Court of being involved in the attack and of belonging to a broad network of conspirators.

Staff's residence was raided the night of 15 May by Fifth Circuit Prosecutor Felix Perez and DIIP agents, according to witnesses.

At least fifty attacks have occurred in the country over the past three years. The attacks have been attributed to alleged subversive groups made up of former military personnel, active policemen, and civilians.

'Approximately' 5,000 Teachers March to Presidential Palace 13 May

PA1405173893 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 14 May 93 p 1

[Report by Juan M. Diaz]

[Text] Approximately 5,000 teachers and professors from throughout the country marched to the presidential palace on 13 May to present to President Guillermo Endara a list of demands that include a salary increase of 100 balboas. They also gave the government 30 days to appoint a negotiating commission.

Domingo Sanchez, secretary general of the Association of Professors, said that the 100-balboa increase would be applied to the teachers' basic salary. At the same time, they are also requesting a gradual increase in the bonus scale in accordance with the teachers' years in service.

According to Sanchez, elementary school teachers with one year of service should be granted a 25.30 balboas

increase in their bonuses while those with 14 years of service should be granted a 50.74 balboas increase in their bonuses.

In the secondary school sector, the professors with one year of service would receive an increase of 20 balboas in their bonuses and those with 14 years of service would have their bonuses increased to 85 balboas.

Sanchez said that if this bonus scale is established, the teachers' salaries would be in line with their years of service.

Sanchez explained that this year the teachers have only recovered part of the salary the military dictatorship had cut. He added that in the current economic situation, the cost of the family basket is very high because of the deregulation of prices and the reduction [as published] of tariffs.

At the same time, the Federation of Workers of Panamanian Education asked the education authorities to provide elementary schools with funds to purchase materials to improve the quality of teaching at the nationwide level.

Despite the persistent rain that fell on the afternoon of 13 May, the teachers arrived at the Presidential Palace of the Herons where they were received by Presidency Minister Julio Harris.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Marco Alarcon said the teachers' action was "political." He said that since the teachers did not work on 13 May, the day's salary will be deducted from their pay as is established by law.

Judge Asks Foreign Ministry for Access to G-2 Documents

PA1505170593 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 15 May 93 p 5a

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Third Circuit Judge Geneva Aguilar has sent three requests to the Foreign Ministry for Carlos Carrillo, former Mayor Felipe Camargo's defense lawyer, to have access to the 15,000 cases of G-2 [Panama Defense Forces, PDF, Intelligence Section] documents seized during the U.S. invasion.

The judge asked Foreign Minister Julio Linares to take the necessary steps before the U.S. Southern Command to obtain access to the documents. Carrillo will attempt to obtain evidence to be used in the cases against his client.

Carrillo needs the documents to reinforce his allegations regarding charges against his client by Carlos Smith, Luis Carlos Montenegro, and Geronimo Guerra.

There are 34 cases against Felipe Camargo; most of them for crimes against individual freedom, two for human rights violations, and two for crimes against public administration.

The G-2 files are kept on one of the Southern Command's bases. The Southern Command agreed to allow Panamanian authorities to have access to those documents in 1990. Panamanian officials have had problems, however, gaining access to the PDF files, especially to gather evidence to be used by the Panamanian Government in suits filed abroad against former General Manuel Noriega.

Part of the G-2 files were transferred to Miami in October 1991 to be used in the trial on drug charges against the former PDF commander.

Comptroller General's Office Issues Government Revenue Report

PA1605185393 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 May 93 p 2a

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] A Comptroller General's Office report on the execution of the government's public and financial budget indicates that during the first quarter of the year, the government received 388.5 million balboas [B] in revenues which, when applied to B310 million in current and capital expenses, results in a B78.5 million favorable balance.

According to the document, total revenue received in the first quarter amounts to B363.2 million in ordinary revenues, broken down into B225.0 million in tax revenues and B138.2 million in nontax revenues.

Current income includes B20.9 million in favorable 1993 cash and bank balance. This represents the first three months' portion of budget surplus to be received during the 1993 fiscal year.

Likewise, capital income totaling B4.3 million was also received during the same period. That income is divided into B1.5 million in AID-FREN donation, B2.7 million from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and B100,000 from the sale of assets.

With respect to payments made by the government during the first quarter of the year, the report discloses that B343.7 million in payments were made during the same period. When compared with B893.9 million in payments made during the first quarter of 1992, this results in a B550.2 million decrease in payments.

The aforementioned decrease in payments in the first quarter came about as the result of B685.9 million in overdue balances having been paid to the International Financial Institutions (IFIS).

The items that stand out most from the payments made in the first quarter of the year include B123.7 million in wages and B102.4 million in public debt.

Payments totalling B24.9 million made to suppliers are the result of contracts and equipment received during the first four months of the year. Another item deserving special attention is the public debt service payment, which amounts to B102.4 million.

During the first quarter of the year, 298 contracts worth B35.5 million were approved. That raises the total number of contracts approved starting in 1990 to 31 March 1993 to 2,134, with a total value of B326.2 million.

Public sector debt increased to B4.9085 billion during the first four months of the year. When compared to the B4.926-billion balance outstanding on 31 December 1992, it reflects a B17.6-million net decrease, of which B4 million corresponds to the external debt and B13.6 million to the internal debt.

The Comptroller General's Office report points out that as part of the central government's external debt, the bilateral organizations' balance decreased by B16 million. The bilateral and official creditors' balance recorded, however, B900,000 and B28.3 million increases, respectively.

In declining from B987.9 million as of 31 December 1992 to B969 million as of 31 March 1993, the central government's internal debt recorded a B18.9-million decrease.

The Comptroller General's Office highlights that the decentralized sector's contracted debt reflects a B12.2-million decline. This came about as the result of a decrease in the B1.1491 billion outstanding balance in December 1992 to B1.1369 billion as of 31 March 1993.

Decentralized external debt balances fell by B17.5 million. Outstanding balances worthy of mention include multilateral organizations with B19.6 million, in addition to bilateral and official suppliers with B2.7 million. On the other hand, the private financing sources group increased by B4.8 million.

The Comptroller General's Office report adds that the bilateral and official suppliers group fell by B2.7 million as the result of payments totalling B500,000 to AID, B100,000 favorable currency fluctuation related to FIVEN [Venezuelan Investment Fund] projects, and B2.1 million in payments to official suppliers.

The report adds that during the previous fiscal period, the government paid B645 million to the IFIS and B40.5 million to the Paris Club.

Argentina

Interior Minister Outlines Reform Plan for Municipalities

PY1405170993 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish
12 May 93 p 14

[All figures as published]

[Text] Interior Minister Gustavo Beliz yesterday announced the government's plan to strengthen municipalities throughout the country. This is the last stage of the comprehensive political reform on which the Interior Ministry has been working since the beginning of the year. The initiative that CLARIN anticipated in yesterday's edition provides for the establishment of a Federal Office for Municipal Affairs, legal status for political parties at the municipal level, the possibility of holding a referendum or a plebiscite, and the repeal of mandates by popular vote.

Beliz will give a detailed explanation of this initiative in Parque Norte [sports complex in Buenos Aires], where the First Federal Congress of Mayors will be held on 14-15 May. Mayors from the entire country will attend this congress.

The political initiative publicized by Beliz does have its controversial points. This plan provides for the decentralization of provincial governments by vesting mayors with more power, to the detriment of governors.

Yesterday, however, Beliz limited himself to making announcements. The hub of the plan for mayors is the appropriation of federal funds for supporting municipalities. Beliz stated that the government plans to allocate \$300 million to this end in 1993. Appropriations for the project break down as follows:

- 121 million pesos from the "World Bank provinces-1 loan" to be earmarked for updating provincial cadastres. This will enable the transfer of property taxes to municipalities in several provinces.
- 4.5 million pesos from the "provinces-1 loan" granted by the World Bank to be allocated for decentralization of hospital and school services.
- 80 million [no currency specified] to be granted by the Interior Ministry to promote investments in social programs.
- 60 million [no currency specified] from the National Employment Program.
- \$25 million from the provinces-2 loan granted by the IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development] for restructuring and strengthening the public sector at the municipal level.
- The National Bank will establish a line of credit for investments in municipal public utilities, which will be granted to concessionaires [frentistas].

The overall project is also subject to the tax agreement that the federal government hopes to sign with the provinces within the next 40 days. Once the agreement is

signed, municipalities will be able to receive their allotment of the funds appropriated by the federal government to the provinces every day.

Another aspect of the government's plan is more politically oriented. The person who will be appointed to head the Federal Office for Municipal Affairs will have to negotiate with every provincial governor the transfer of hospitals, schools, and in many cases public utilities, to municipalities. This will not be an easy task. An optimistic estimate given by the Interior Ministry reckons that the full implementation of the decentralization process will take two years.

Bolivia

Official Notes Success in Coca Crop Eradication

PY1505192993 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 5 May 93 p B5

[Text] Coca Reduction Directorate (DIRECO) Director Daniel Sanchez Chavez has noted that despite trade union opposition by Chapare peasants, DIRECO has so far this year been able to eradicate about 1,200 hectares of what were considered surplus coca crops.

Sanchez Chavez admitted that the voluntary reduction in coca crops is at a standstill due to interference by coca growers' trade union organizations. About a month ago the coca growers ordered that the programs for voluntary reduction of coca crops not be accepted—as a way of protesting the government's noncompliance with the coca growers' proposal to devise a construction program that would include the greatest number of towns possible.

Despite the decision made by the trade union organizations, the DIRECO brigades managed to eradicate about 1,200 hectares of surplus coca crops during the first quarter.

The government has still not established this year's—the program's last year—targets for coca reduction, waiting for a decision on accords and agreements with the U.S. Government to establish economic assistance for drug enforcement and the balance of payments.

It is not likely that a coca reduction rate ranging between 5,000 and 7,000 hectares could be established for this year, as according to Law No. 1008 and its regulations, voluntary coca reductions must be completed in December.

In 1988, when Law No. 1008 was approved and became effective, the government approved a voluntary coca reduction timetable establishing a five-year period for reducing 35,000 hectares of alleged surplus coca crops throughout our country.

In this regard Sanchez Chavez noted that the government designs and establishes the policies for the eradication of surplus coca crops, that his office is simply

implementing these programs, and that he is therefore unaware of the decisions that may be made in this field.

Union Leader on Alternative Program Failure

PY1505204393 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 6 May 93 p B5

[Text] Union leader Evo Morales, from the Special Federation of Tropical Region Peasant Workers, noted yesterday that between 80 and 90 percent of the 20,000 hectares of coca land subjected to the government's eradication programs remains unused vis-a-vis the alternative development program's failure.

The union leader's claim confirms a report supplied by Coca Reduction Directorate (DIRECO) officials who have stressed that coca crops have been entirely removed from the entire central Chapare region.

This year DIRECO must comply with the last part of the five-year coca reduction program established by Law No. 1008. The law says that 1994 will be the last year for the reduction of surplus coca crops, after paying \$2,000 in compensation for every eradicated hectare.

Morales noted that, despite the reduction of 20,000 hectares, the government's program has failed due to the peasants' resistance to submitting themselves to the government's policy. He reminded that, according to the agreements signed with the U.S. Government in 1985, a commitment was made to eliminate 50,000 hectares of coca crops, without any form of compensation.

Morales said: "It was necessary to socially mobilize the peasants, and their will alone defeated the government's goals."

In 1988, when the government signed a new agreement with the U.S. Government, a target was established to eliminate 35,000 hectares of coca crops in five years, following the payment of \$2,000 in compensation [per hectare], which will remain effective until the end of the year.

DIRECO officials, who were asked about the deadline for the eradication of coca crops, pointed out that, so far, they are unaware of the government's criterion on the program's deadline.

According to Law No. 1008, the voluntary elimination of coca crops will be followed by a phase of forced elimination, whose details and contents have not been released.

Morales noted that, despite its failure, the reduction has been harmful to coca growers and the Chapare region's production because a good percentage of the 20,000 hectares subjected to reduction are unused, without any type of crops.

Brazil

Government 'Closely Following' U.S. Maneuvers in Guyana

PY1605030893 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] The Brazilian Government is closely following the development of military maneuvers by U.S. troops in Guyana. The maneuvers are taking place in the Amazon jungle near the Brazilian border.

According to the U.S. State Department, they are routine maneuvers.

President Itamar Franco spent all day at home in the Lago Sul neighborhood. Franco did not receive any visits, not even from ministers or advisers, but he spoke over the phone with presidential adviser Francisco Baker. In referring to the U.S. military maneuvers in the Amazon jungle in Guyana on the border with Brazil, Franco said that any movement in border areas is watched carefully, as is this one.

U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton just disclosed that these are routine maneuvers and the U.S. Army previously had informed the Brazilian Army about them, as is common practice.

Finance Minister Questioned in Senate on Loan Approval

PY1505143693 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 May 93 p 1

[Text] During the questioning session that took place yesterday in the Senate, Finance and Economy Minister Eliseu Resende did not manage to dissipate all doubts regarding his relations with the Odebrecht construction company. The number of unclarified points increased with his explanations. He admitted that he had not sent the Senate the report on the \$115 million loan for Odebrecht construction in Peru approved by Finance Executive Secretary Wando Borges.

President Itamar Franco has decided to retain Resende in his post to avoid having him leave government under the suspicion that he had attempted to benefit the Odebrecht company. His total estrangement may nonetheless take place before the end of May, when a cabinet reshuffle is expected.

'Center-Left' Ministers Search for Cabinet Crisis Solution

PY1505190793 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 May 93 p 4

[Article by Rita Tavares and Rosangela Bittar]

[Text] Brasilia—Four ministers and two government leaders in Congress have presented to President Itamar

Franco a strategy to recover his credibility and to guarantee the conditions for governability: the appointment of a "super" planning minister to counterbalance the presence of Eliseu Resende in the Finance Ministry. The first to speak with President Itamar was Labor Minister Walter Barelli, who had a scheduled audience with the president yesterday morning. The whole so-called center-left group of the administration will raise this suggestion with Itamar during individual conversations.

The president reacted positively to the suggestion of appointing a minister who would effectively coordinate government actions. In defining the strategy the center-left group did not mention names, but the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] wants to choose the position holder. The strategy was designed during a meeting that took place during the evening of 12 May in the apartment of Federal Administration Secretary Luiza Erundina, with the presence of Social Security Minister Antonio Britto, Labor Minister Barelli, Deputy Roberto Freire (PPS-Pe) [People's Socialist Party—Pernambuco], and Senator Pedro Simon (PMDB-RS) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party—Rio Grande do Sul]. Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso did not attend the meeting because he was in Japan.

The election of a planning minister in tune with the group would facilitate its permanence in the administration. Besides making veiled criticisms toward Minister Resende, some of the ministers dared to air their criticisms publicly by saying that the permanence of Resende was "unsustainable." The group is now looking for a solution that will justify and guarantee its permanence in the Itamar administration.

In the short term the group counts on the certainty of two dismissals: those of National Economy Assistant Secretary Antonio Maciel Neto and Finance Ministry Executive Secretary Wando Borges. Both have been very discredited through the repercussions of the Resende case, and with their dismissal the government could demonstrate that it is still committed to ethical behavior. In discussing the functions of this new "super minister," besides coordinating the work of the ministries, the group is analyzing the possibility of executing a broad policy of openness to the media to demonstrate what the government is doing.

In leaving Planalto Palace Minister Barelli phoned his colleagues, informing them of how the president received the idea. In principle, during the discussions in the home of Luiza Erundina the ministers and leaders thought to talk with Itamar together. Then they reconsidered and decided to hold individual talks. Given that he already had a scheduled audience with the president, Barelli was the first to meet with him.

The president was not enthusiastic about the permanence of Eliseu Resende, but did not seem discouraged about the continuation of the crisis. He did not discuss the issue extensively with Barelli, but expressed his concern. Barelli told another minister that the president

knows that he still has one political problem to solve. "If there were a moral problem I would dismiss him, but there is none," the president said, explaining that he is convinced of Resende's innocence.

Rio-Belo Horizonte Pipeline Construction To Begin in Sep

PY1505013693 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] The construction of the gas pipeline between Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte for the distribution of Bolivian natural gas will begin in September 1993 and is expected to begin operations by the end of 1994.

Public bids for the construction of the gas pipeline will be opened next month. The gas pipeline will be 356 km long and the total cost is estimated at \$125.7 million.

This report was released today in Belo Horizonte by Luiz Carlos de Lemos Costant Milan, secretary of the executive group for the feasibility of the Bolivian gas project.

Technicians Say Angra-1 To Resume Operations in Jun

PY1505012693 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Technicians from the Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc. [FCE], who are analyzing the radioactive fuel rods, have predicted that Angra-1 will resume operations during the second half of June.

Of the 15,000 rods tested so far, 46 were found to have some fissures. According to Everton Carvalho, vice president of the Brazilian Nuclear Energy Association, who is following the work to identify and correct failures in Angra-1, the plant was shut down with a radioactive level below the safety level, which does not represent any risk to human health or the environment. Carvalho has calmed down the people and voiced assurances that this problem was predictable.

[Begin Carvalho recording] We feel that the temporary shutdown of Angra-1 was an operational measure to detect and correct possible failures. This is considered an absolutely normal measure because at no point were the people at any risk. The radiation leak took place within the sealed vessel, which means there was no radiation leak outside. For this reason we even question the use of the word leakage, because people usually believe the leak will affect the environment, which is not true. We believe all measures must be adopted to correct failures in the fuel rods. They are micro-fissures which normally occur in nuclear reactors. The faulty rods will be changed and Angra-1 will resume operations. [end recording]

Since August last year, when the first symptoms of radioactivity were detected in the water around the reactor, safety measures have been doubled until the maximum tolerance level was reached and the plant disconnected.

Air Force Commander Issues 'Manifesto'
*PY1505014093 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO
PAULO in Portuguese 13 May 93 p 8*

[“Text” of manifesto issued by Lieutenant Brigadier
Ivan Moacyr da Frota, Air Force commander in chief]

[Text] An alert to the nation and an appeal to the
honorable citizens of this country!

In this instant I am writing I seek to interpret the
legitimate wishes of all my colleagues without exception,
from those who have offered their blood during a holo-
caust in defense of the motherland, to those (both
uniformed and civilian) who are still living and who also
dedicated the best years of their lives to the motherland
following the sacred principle of “Always offer every-
thing to the dear motherland without ever asking for
anything in exchange!”

During the past few years, the Brazilian Armed Forces
have been victims of permanent attacks against their
moral capability. These attacks have been carried out
through a well orchestrated campaign, professionally
directed by certain national and international media
factions (example: the ignominiously coward, distorted,
and sensationalist approach given to the case of the
“Shrimps from Pelotas”).

The strategic goal of this campaign is the systematic
demoralization and the maximum or total destruction of
the national military institution.

The peculiar issue about this is that such pressures
originated both from internal organizations and from
orchestrations directed by the interests of a certain sector
of the international community, both with the same
purpose, but with different objectives.

On the one side, the continuous patrolling by dissatisfied
radical sectors of national politicians, whether to give
continuity to their unwholesome and unending revan-
chist attitude, or to weaken the military institution to the
point of eliminating it as a threat that can thwart their
objectives of conquering power at any cost. [sentence as
published]

In the international field, the rich countries (Group of
Seven or G-7) continue to implement their “new world
order,” a philosophy that divide nations in two groups—
“the leading and the secondary” nations—where the
latter are doomed to an endless underdevelopment to
prevent them from emerging as possible competition
threats in the international economic field.

Said philosophy assigns priority attention to the resump-
tion of the old North-South conflict (instead of the
extinct East-West), where the basic strategic goal of the
“leading” countries is to weaken the Armed Forces of
“secondary” nations to make them easier preys for their
discriminatory objectives.

The basic rule for such a project is to impose a subser-
vient attitude on the “secondary” nations so as to resign
them to accepting their humiliating condition of
remaining in their permanent stage of social, economic,
political, and military underdevelopment, docilely
abiding by their role of sources of strategic reserves of
the “leading” countries and simple markets consumers
or suppliers of raw material and of lesser quality services.

To make the achievement of that machiavellian objec-
tive easier, an outstanding strategic goal was prepared:
the destruction of the national pride and will of the
target-nations in which, suddenly, the Armed Forces
represent one of the few organized groups that have the
necessary knowledge and the adequate strategic vision to
perceive such maneuvers and denounce them, as well as
to counterbalance the obscure intentions of the interna-
tional colonialist power.

Therefore, it is obvious that the military institutions of
these countries have become the main target of the
strategy implemented.

Thus, campaigns to reduce resources and campaigns
challenging the Armed Forces’ role as well as campaigns
to impair the military materiel industry and campaigns
to halt the technological projects of these countries,
among other campaigns, have been systematically and
permanently conducted.

Ill-advised media as well as the media corrupted by
international interests have significantly cooperated
with these maneuvers.

Slander campaigns against the Armed Forces are period-
ically conducted in order to continue the level of disin-
formation of the society in those countries to discredit
and demoralize military institutions.

Thus, international interests, which are of a clearly
colonialist fashion, paradoxically are favored by the
efficient work of some national political groups which,
instead of championing their nationalist beliefs, naively
or crookedly oppose these beliefs by carrying out actions
that contribute to undermining our national will. These
actions involve the demoralization of our country’s
dearest institutions, including the Armed Forces, by
denying them commensurate budgets and honorable
remunerations for their professionals.

The successive budget cuts implemented during the past
few years have forced the Navy, Army, and Air Force to
dramatically reduce their specific activities.

In 1992, the Brazilian Air Force was forced to deprive a
large portion of its pilots of regular and basic air activi-
ties.

The funds allocated for aviation fuel in the 1992 Air
Force budget represented one-fifth of the acceptable
basic funds required for Air Force training and were
equivalent to the funds required for one month of
operations for the Rio Grande do Sul Airline.

Concerning the Brazilian industrial stock of military materiel, it was totally scrapped because international pressures, with the assistance of national media circles, simply prevented it from continuing to export the basic quantity of that materiel required to keep alive a strategic capacity essential for guaranteeing the sovereignty of any country. In this field, the rich nations continue to manufacture and increasingly improve their arms industry, thus irreparably outdistancing the underdeveloped nations.

Supported by international organizations, which are manipulated for their benefit, and by caustic political beliefs such as the recently advocated *devoir d'ingérence* [preceding two words in French], the "leading" countries arbitrarily continue to intervene with their devastating military power against the defenseless governments and people of the "secondary" countries, whose only guilt is to struggle to assert its legitimate and irrevocable right to decide on their own destiny.

Therefore, over the last few years, the international military power has supported, on several occasions, strategic actions and moves to protect the interests of rich countries, which are gradually gaining control of the world economy.

We have to thank God that the Middle East and Eastern European countries have the international discriminating power's full and undivided attention for the time being, because the Brazilian Amazon forest might at any moment become the next target of that greedy and insatiable power strategy.

Any excuse may come in handy to achieve such an end—drug trafficking, ecology, protection of Indians' rights, etc.

Domestic separatist movements constitute a most serious threat that must at all times be confronted with determination.

Such movements, which are controlled from abroad by special projects, make use of the ambition and lack of love of some hypocritical Brazilians who offer themselves as the instruments of those treacherous initiatives.

It should sink into people's minds that Brazil is top-ranking on the list of priorities of "new world order" managers, as it is a country that is marvelously endowed with vast natural resources and one of the few that can give battle to the international economic power in the forthcoming century.

Our country's exceptional characteristics have at the same time awaken the covetousness and concern of "leading" countries. This fact assumes disquieting proportions in view of the fact that our huge country is now ailing and in a shambles. The circumstances are thus propitious for an onslaught by foreign marauders, who are already prowling around and waiting for the right moment to make a fatal "thrust" at their victims.

In the domestic sphere, the complete disarray of the economic and financial situation compounded by the lack of understanding evinced by some political sectors has given rise to disillusionment among the "silent majority" in the community, which as it lacks organization, it lets itself be guided by the selfish and personal interests of a well-organized and active minority.

Basing my conclusions on the study of this situation, I would like to underscore the urgent need that the Brazilian nation realize that the Armed Forces literally are being smothered. This may result in the annihilation of one of the few institutions that is adequately organized to provide real protection for our beloved homeland.

One must understand that the Brazilian Armed Forces are not at the beck and call of personal interests, no matter who that person may be, and that it is an institution in charge of serving only our homeland and its most legitimate interests.

To those who question the Armed Forces' priority in our present world or who contend that detente in international politics, as well as the lack of any definite prospects of war, do not warrant the appropriation of more funds for the military, I would like to emphasize the undeniable fact that the Armed Forces are practically the only support of any country's sovereignty and that "the best social service that any government can provide to its people is to keep its Armed Forces alive and free."

Therefore, our Armed Forces are the legitimate instrument, which are moreover organized and reasonably structured, to confront all the aforementioned threats to the well-being of the Brazilian nation.

On the other hand, skyrocketing salaries have been self-assigned by some false servants of the people, with a discriminatory and selfish attitude, which is above all deeply dishonest with the other labor classes of similar responsibility and level, whose salaries are paid by the same federal source and who can hardly feed or give their families decent standards of living.

It is no longer possible to remain indifferent, with an attitude of passivity and resignation. All of this should end!

The time of military insurrections and coups is over. Our legal formation rejects that type of forceful action. I believe the time has come for the silent and honorable majority of this nation to let their voice be heard at this critical moment, to demand—with determination and firmness—that the Armed Forces be given appropriate importance and consideration.

Instead of formal plebiscites and movements that only seek to increase even further the power of some political groups, the people should now firmly and directly let their voice be heard to appeal for the attention and the reason of the men and organizations that govern the country.

Giving the Armed Forces the appropriate "political priority" is one of the more justified actions of the moment, so that the institution may properly fulfill its Constitutional role.

It is essential to allocate the necessary funds so that the military ministries may decently and properly perform their duties.

No nation can achieve development without the necessary security to guarantee its work. Only the Armed Forces can provide such security.

The Armed Forces do not want budgets that are not in line with the current national situation. Yet it is essential to at least have enough resources to feed personnel, to guarantee a decent standard of living for the institution, and to make minimum investments for modestly updating military equipment.

Society is accustomed to witnessing, and sometimes to suffering the effects of the pressure from classes that pose demands that they believe justified. This pressure is generally exerted through several types of strikes. We have recently seen almost all national organizations exercising that pressure, paralyzing or restricting the operation of the most sensitive and delicate activities, such as those in the health, police, communications, and electric power areas. Even public servants have staged strikes.

The demands posed by such organizations, however, have always been met.

Only the regular Armed Forces have never resorted to a strike, which is an instrument of democracy. Why didn't they ever do it? Because they have nothing with which to pressure consumers? Not at all! It would be enough for aeronautics to paralyze the entire Brazilian Airspace Control System to create chaos in the country, impeding national and international air traffic in our airspace.

No! The Armed Forces have not gone on strike because they are aware of their sacred responsibility to the fatherland, which would be the great loser in the event of a strike.

Consequently, I now appeal to the honorable men and women of this country to give all their support to the rapid recovery of the political priority of the Brazilian Armed Forces, which are now going through the most serious crisis in their history, so that those men and women may recall and become aware that A NATION THAT DOES NOT HONOR ITS ARMED FORCES DOES NOT DESERVE TO BE FREE!

Chile

Shots Fired at U.S. Consulate Guards; No Injuries
PY1505233293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2311 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Santiago, 15 May (EFE)—Several unidentified individuals in a car last night fired at least five shots at

the U.S. Consulate in Santiago, according to the daily LAS ULTIMAS NOTICIAS today.

The individuals opened fired at two Carabineros officers (military police) guarding the consulate entrance but did not hit them.

The marks of at least five bullets from automatic rifles were left on the entrance door of the consulate building, located in front of a park some 10 blocks from La Moneda Palace.

The police launched a major operation in the surrounding area to search for the attackers; it lasted until dawn today without any results.

Foreign Minister on EC Fruit Exports, Tokyo Whaling Congress

PY1405170093 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma stated yesterday that Chile's fruit exporters were to blame for the problem arising from the EC's decision to restrict Chile's exports of fruit. Silva Cimma pointed out that fruit exporters were unable to control the supply of fruit on the market, and therefore should not try to shrug off their responsibility for this by accusing the government of sluggishness or oversight. He explained that the government decided to negotiate with EC authorities directly rather than requesting GATT to settle the issue, because if it had opted for the second alternative this year's apple harvest would have been lost. Silva Cimma said:

[Begin recording] If the government has not yet had recourse to a multilateral agency, which is its right, it is by no means due to procrastination but rather to the fact that it is concerned about this year's harvest. If we had appealed to GATT to settle this issue, its ruling would have come too late to save this year's harvest. [end recording]

Silva Cimma added that the Association of Fruit Exporters knew about the problem. He made it clear that this is the government's stance on the issue, and that President Aylwin himself had requested him to publicize it after yesterday's cabinet meeting.

Regarding the proposal put forward by France at the International Whaling Conference currently being held in Kyoto, which met with Chile's rejection, Silva Cimma said that Chile voted down the proposal to establish a whaling-free zone in the Pacific Ocean because it violated Chile's sovereign rights to its territorial waters. The whaling-free zone that France wanted to establish would have taken up one-third of Chile's exclusive economic zone. He said:

[Begin recording] The whale sanctuary proposed by France includes Chile's territorial waters from Valdivia down south to Antarctica—that is to say, one-third of our exclusive economic zone and the whole of our

territorial jurisdiction in Antarctica. We could only consider having a sanctuary provided we had first reached agreement with the International Whaling Commission, in which the latter would acknowledge Chile's jurisdiction over those areas that are part of its territorial waters. [end recording]

To conclude, Silva Cimma said that any other interpretation of Chile's vote only seeks to throw Chileans into total confusion because, he asserted, the government has always been in favor of a conservationist policy.

Colombia

Four Bombings Reported in Cali Prior to Gaviria Visit

PA1505183393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Four people were injured when four bombs exploded at noon on 15 May in Cali. The bombs were placed at the markets in Siloe, La Alameda, Alfonso Lopez, and at the shopping center on 14th Avenue. Two children are among the injured. Security measures have been heightened in the capital city of El Valle Department. President Gaviria is scheduled to visit Cali this afternoon where he will inaugurate the Pacific Railroad.

According to the Cali Metropolitan Police, the bombs were propaganda bombs and were planted by members of the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board. Two suspects have been arrested.

Authorities Arrest FARC Bolivarian Militia Leaders

PA1505011393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravisión
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 May 93

[Report by Maribel Osorio in Medellin]

[Text] Two leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] so-called Bolivarian Militias were captured on 14 May in Medellin. According to the Metropolitan Police, one of them is the national commander of the organization.

Albeiro de Jesus Castaneda, caught by the Metropolitan Police in Medellin, is reported to be the national commander of the Bolivarian Militias. Castaneda, alias Diego, was reportedly commander of the FARC 4th, 9th, 12th, and 23d fronts.

According to the authorities, Albeiro de Jesus Castaneda was in the city on orders by the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board to establish contacts with militia leaders. The goal was to create a militia coordinating board.

The arrest was carried out at Villa Almar, moments after he had participated in a meeting with chiefs of military groups in Blanquibal neighborhood.

Two more men were also arrested. One of them is reportedly the fourth man within the Bolivarian Militias, but his relatives claim the arrest is only the result of a witch hunt.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] My brother is an economics student. He goes to class in the morning and works at a mechanical workshop in the afternoon. During the weekends he works at a restaurant. The other one is my common-law husband. I can assert he is the best father and spouse. He is a journalist, but he is currently unemployed. He is also working at a mechanical workshop. [end recording]

The prisoners had in their possession four weapons and a radio, which were confiscated. They will be soon turned over to the regional prosecutor's office.

New Group Vows To Defend Armed Forces' Honor

PA1705000593 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO
in Spanish 10 May 93 pp 1A, 8A

[Text] A new group, the self-styled Association for the Defense of Military Honor [Asociacion Para la Defensa del Honor Militar], appeared on 9 May and reported to the public that its members "will foil the plans prepared by subversives and drug traffickers against the Armed Forces."

According to a communique sent to Radio Cadena Nacional network, the alleged organization criticized the recent German Government recent decision to deny visas to a group of military members. The visas were denied because, according to a recent report by Colombian journalist Patricia Lara, they presumably are human rights violators.

"Germany does not have the moral authority to defame us. Their Fuehrer's crematories are still smoking on their soil and the remains of their wall of shame are still crumbling," the communique stated.

The document continued: We, the activists, who guarantee the existence of current Colombian institutions, and who have made our dear homeland great, cannot overlook the selfish tricks of those who assume the right to judge the fulfillment of duty from their obscure human rights defense groups.

The accusations to which the communique referred deal with the charges published in the book State Terrorism written by journalist Patricia Lara. The book has been a success throughout Europe.

Based on that report, the German Government refused to allow the entry of four Colombian military officers who were part of an official delegation that traveled to the United States and Europe this week.

Moreover, high-ranking commanders said they know nothing about the new group, the self-styled Association

for the Defense of Military Honor; adding that the communique has no official status.

A fax of the communique was sent to Radio Cadena Nacional network on the afternoon of 9 May from an unidentified machine. If the new group's existence is true, it would become another one of the groups which, like the Pepes [Persecuted by Pablo Escobar], are outlawed and privately enforce justice. The government recently pledged it would reveal the results of an investigation into the Pepes' identity but it has yet to fulfill its pledge.

Colombians still do not know the identity of the people who have perpetrated a large number of assassinations and terrorist actions against Medellin Cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar Gaviria's relatives and close associates.

Authorities Destroy Clandestine Landing Strips in Valle

PA1505221793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] The police have discovered several clandestine landing strips used by the Cali Cartel to transport its cocaine. On 15 May the authorities started destroying these landing strips.

The struggle against the drug cartels operating in central Valle del Cauca Department has been considerably accelerated. The authorities are carrying out intense airborne operations to detect illegal landing strips and laboratories used to process alkaloids. Over 15 landing strips have been destroyed and almost three tons of cocaine has been seized.

Public order forces are deploying intelligence networks in the municipalities of Ricaurte, Bolivar, Buga, Tuluá, Andalucia, Yotoco, and San Pedro to detect the drug traffickers' contacts and the subversive fronts operating in the mountains of this region.

In northern Valle del Cauca, the authorities have destroyed landing strips in Cartago, Roldanillo, and La Union.

[Begin unidentified police officer recording] As you were able to see when we toured the area in an airplane, the terrain is suitable for the drug traffickers' activities. Unfortunately, the traffickers are impinging on the good habits and good faith of the people who work these very productive lands. [end recording]

Official investigations have revealed that the self-styled Northern Valle Cartel is the group that has increased its activities most intensely and it is the strongest of the groups operating in this part of the country. Countless clandestine landing strips remain to be destroyed in northern Valle del Cauca Department.

Paraguay

Saka Releases Final Parallel Vote Count Figures

PY1405192293 Lambare Paraguay Radio Cardinal in Spanish 1445 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] In a news conference, the Saka Organization has just released the final results of its parallel vote count for the 9 May elections.

For president: Juan Carlos Wasmosy of the National Republican Association [ANR]-Colorado Party, 322,431 votes, 39 percent; Domingo Laino of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA], 263,695 votes, 31.89 percent; and Guillermo Caballero Vargas of the National Encounter Alliance [EN], 221,939 votes, 26.84 percent.

For the Senate: ANR, 42.2 percent, which accounts for 19 seats; PLRA, 37.8 percent, which accounts for 17 seats; and EN, 20 percent, which accounts for nine seats. Based on these figures—which differ from those released by the Central Electoral Board—the Colorado Party will lose one seat to the EN, and Blanca Zuccolillo de Rodriguez will be a new senator. The Saka figures show that the opposition will have a majority in the Senate.

For the Chamber of Deputies: Colorado Party, 46.2 percent—this percentage is also different from that of the Central Electoral Board—which accounts for 36 seats; the PLRA, 42.3 percent, which accounts for 33 seats; and EN, 11.5 percent, which accounts for nine seats. Thus far Saka has not yet obtained any figures on the elections in Boqueron Department. Saka has not received significant figures on governors in Neembucu Department and in Boqueron and Alto Paraguay. Saka also reported that its figures have not been instrumental in determining who won two seats in the Chamber of Deputies.

During the news conference, the Saka executives also reported on a number of irregularities, on problems they had encountered in collecting data, on cases of harassment, and on Saka vehicles that were forced off the road during elections day.

PLRA, EN Create Special Electoral Openness Board

PY1405214793 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
14 May 93 p 8

[Text] Former presidential candidates Domingo Laino, from the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, and Guillermo Caballero Vargas, from the National Encounter, EN, yesterday released a joint document, establishing a "Coordinating Board for Electoral Openness" ["Coordinadora para la Transparencia Electoral"]. The two leaders supported the formation of this coordinating board, claiming the existence of irregularities before, during, and after the 9 May elections.

The document points out: "The electoral process, the results of which remain uncertain due to a systematic

strategy promoted by the sector controlled by the Colorado Party to prevent absolute openness, forces the PLRA and the EN to urgently form a Coordinating Board for Electoral Openness that will be able to make political decisions regarding the current process." The document was signed by the two presidential candidates during a news conference at the Gran Hotel del Paraguay in the presence of top PLRA and EN leaders.

Regarding pre-electoral fraud, the document mentions the following irregularities: removal of voters from their electoral districts, tampering with identity cards, forging of names, forging of identity cards to allow minors, the deceased, and those who registered late to vote, liberal use of state funds, and the intolerable meddling of the military in the electoral process.

Concerning the fraud committed on the eve of the election and on election day, the document mentions the closing of the borders to prevent the entry of Paraguayans to cast their votes and undue pressures before the elections and on election day.

The Coordinating Board for Electoral Openness will consist of the PLRA and EN [presidential] candidates who in turn will appoint their representatives for each specific area, allowing the possibility for other social and political circles to join this initiative.

Dr. Guillermo Caballero Vargas emphasized: "In the wake of the irregularities in the electoral process reported before and during election day, and the post-electoral efforts to defraud the people's sovereignty that was expressed through the ballot boxes, we have reached an accord to closely and scrupulously control the electoral results, as there will be no governability if we do not have legitimate leaders who may be consecrated by open elections alone."

For his part, PLRA candidate Dr. Domingo Laino pointed out: "The elections were held within the framework of an open constitutional violation. All the borders were closed. Anyone—except for Paraguayans—could enter Paraguay. We keep receiving reports on irregularities from various places in the Republic. Therefore, we have decided to form this coordinating board that will seek openness because, without electoral openness, there will be no democracy."

Lino Oviedo Discusses Election With Media

PY1405220093 Lambare Paraguay Radio Cardinal in Spanish 1000 GMT 14 May 93

[News conference by Lino Cesar Oviedo, First Army Corps Commander Division General, with unidentified reporters on 13 May; place not given—recorded]

[Text] First Army Corps Commander Division General Lino Cesar Oviedo spoke to the media last night before attending a dinner at the home of Colorado Party President Blas N. Riquelme. When asked about the

Colorado Party Executive Board decision to express support for him given the criticisms lately from the opposition, he answered:

[Begin recording] [Oviedo] I have not yet been informed about it. I am just hearing this for the first time, from you. When I am aware of the criticisms, I will answer your question.

[Reporter] What do you think of the elections?

[Oviedo] To speak the truth, I have been absent for a few days. I went to the interior, in the Chaco region, five days before the elections, and I learned through the media that, like in any election, there are some things that must yet be improved, but in general, according to the observers, the civic maturity of the Paraguayan people has prevailed, which they did with short notice with a lot of respect and normality. That is what I learned from the media.

[Reporter] What do you say to all those accusations made against you regarding allegedly intervening in political activities?

[Oviedo] I do not want to answer any political question. One has to defend stands on political and partisan subjects, and no one wants to lose in discussions. If you ask the Cerro Porteno [Paraguayan soccer team] players or coaches about the result of the soccer match last night, they probably would have their arguments for having reached a draw and not won. That is normal in life, so that is why I do not want to answer a political question.

[Reporter] But it directly affects you, general, that is why I asked you.

[Oviedo] Well, I do not take it as aimed at me. I treat that remark with the contempt it deserves.

[Reporter] What did you think of the speech of Hermes Rafael Saguier, who harshly attacked you, during the rally closing the campaign of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party?

[Oviedo] I am not really aware of political speeches. I have not even had time to listen to political speeches because every person has his strategy and makes mistakes. Some people, through their speeches, even help their opponents. Therefore, I have not taken the trouble of learning or listening to his speech.

[Reporter] Does this mean, general, that Saguier's speech greatly favored your political party, the Colorado Party?

[Oviedo] It seems that I am not speaking Spanish. I said that I have not even learned about the speech made by Saguier. That is why I cannot offer an opinion about it, and you are asking me whether it has harmed the Colorado Party.

[Reporter] You must have learned about it through the newspapers, general.

[Oviedo] No, I sincerely did not read it, not even in the newspapers. I do not even know if it was published. I was in the Chaco and the newspapers or radio stations hardly reach there. I did not learn anything.

[Reporter] Are you happy with the election results?

[Oviedo] I am happy that democracy is consolidating. Our 2 and 3 February 1989 action was meant to bring democracy to our country. Democracy is consolidating gradually, as in the other countries. I also observe that the new administration is speaking of freedom and democracy, social justice, progress, well-being, something which people want so much, especially the most humble people living in our dear Paraguay.

[Reporter] General, in an interview you once said that the name of Lino Oviedo was worrisome. What guarantees does the new government have of military tranquility? Have you spoken with the new government?

[Oviedo] First, any Armed Forces have the constitutional duty of being responsible for national security. That is our position. We will always remain within the constitutional framework. We will safeguard our national territorial integrity and respect the legally constituted authorities. We have been entrusted with that mission and that is what we will do, no matter who governs.

[Reporter] General, National Encounter member Martini today said it was difficult to beat the Colorado Party because it was headed by a general, and he mentioned Lino Oviedo. He said you were the Colorado Party campaign manager. What do you think of this?

[Oviedo] That is a great honor Martini has given me. He is really giving me undeserved merit. I did not participate, nor did I receive any order during the campaign from a certain political party. I was asked for my opinion at a few meetings, and I voiced it in private, safeguarded by Article 33 of the national constitution. But, given that I am given such undeserved credit, it could be my next profession during civilian life.

[Reporter] General, based on Article 33, will you continue to attend political meetings?

[Oviedo] I have not attended any political meetings. Today I was invited to a dinner. If, for example, you held a dinner in your house and invited me, and if you asked me what I thought about such and such politician and I would not respond, no one would invite me anywhere. People often want to listen to our opinion. So what we do is give our opinion on private occasions, not in a Colorado Party precinct, or in a Colorado Party Executive Board meeting, or much less during a party rally to try to obtain a political post.

[Reporter] What about your speech in the Interior Ministry?

[Oviedo] Well, in the first place, after they invited me, it took me nearly an hour to arrive there because it is

difficult to get there. I was pleased to attend the meeting; while there I was introduced to some people who apparently were mayors from the interior, and they asked for my opinion. I expressed my personal criteria, but not with the spirit of promoting anyone in particular. I just explained some things. That was all.

[Reporter] Do you maintain your position that the Armed Forces should co-govern with the Colorado Party?

[Oviedo] Didn't you listen to my message broadcast four times on television channel 9—because of course it would not be broadcast on channel 13, even if I wanted to pay to have it broadcast.

[Reporter] Why not?

[Oviedo] Because he [Channel 13 owner businessman Nicolas Bo] does not want to publish anything good or nice about General Oviedo. You know who they are. You know whose business partners they are. Channel 13, Radio Cardinal, and NOTICIAS newspaper belong to a family that is the business partner of someone whose names I will not say. You, the employees, know it well.

Why isn't anything bad about Stroessner ever published? Why don't they speak evil of the leadership that surrounded the dictatorship on its last days? I know I will always bother those who took advantage of the dictatorship. But when I joined this cause I did not care for the consequences. I want our people to freely elect its authorities and not have government-appointed authorities. For the first time, the governors will be from and reside in the departments they will represent. Deputies are no longer appointed by the government. They will be citizens from the departments they represent. I am sure they will come to Congress to defend their rights and seek benefits for their towns and departments. That was not so in the past. In the past city mayors were appointed by the government. The government representatives will be governors elected by the people. This will be clearly felt during this second period of the democratic transition, because during the first democratic transition period, headed by the president of the Republic, General Andres Rodriguez, the rules for the game of democracy have been established. So now, in this new period with elected presidents, democracy will be implemented by the authorities elected in their respective departments. The mayors who are currently honoring their commitments with their voters have been elected by their own people, and it is their obligation to meet their demands, because if they do not they will not be well received by their own people, worse still if they are unqualified or immoral, something that cannot be accepted in a democracy.

[Reporter] General, what do you think about the belief of some opposition politicians who said that you should retire, considering that you violated the Constitution by participating in political activities?

[Oviedo] I think we have independent government branches in our country. They should make the appropriate charges before the court. With pleasure I will abide by a court ruling and retire, because I do not use the Army, I serve the Army. If there is no longer a space for me in the Army because something I said in private was divulged or broadcast without my approval, and if I must be punished by law, I will be glad to retire. There must be some corner in this country where I will still be able to do something for my motherland, and like a humble peasant I will probably go to work with my fellow men. [Reporter] What do you think of the position adopted by the opposition, which stated that if it verifies more than 20 percent of the accusations of fraudulent election procedures it will request the annulment of the elections?

[Oviedo] I do not want to discuss something in the juridical field. I did not study for this purpose. I have no diagnosis and much less can I agree with something that has not been proven. I am neither judge nor the subject. I am not a member of the Central Electoral Board. I am not part of this because I am not involved in the political-electoral dispute. That is something that concerns those who deal with the subject. Sincerely, I am currently unaware of the election results because it is not my business, nor am I interested in this subject. I cannot give an opinion about something that has not taken place and about which I know nothing.

[Reporter] In the event an annulment of the elections is requested, or if it can be proven that, for example, Domingo Laino won these elections, would you nonetheless respect him as the new president, according to what you said in your 9 May message?

[Oviedo] For the second time I tell you my message was for whoever becomes elected. I did not mean anyone in particular. Did you listen to the message? Did you read it in the newspapers? Can you interpret what you read? The answer is in that message.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Oviedo] No, I recorded it five days before I left for the interior.

[Reporter] But we learned you would give a message.

[Oviedo] No. I left that message so that it would be transmitted after the elections, to avoid speculation that I had said that as a threat to influence the voters. I said that it should be transmitted after the elections. But it came out on the day of the elections. It was recorded five days earlier. I said you can transmit it after 1700. But they did not do so because between 1700 and 2100—I was told—communications were very saturated.

[Reporter] General, you said that even if you paid channel 13 to broadcast your message it would not do so. Don't you think that if you invited channel 13, it would record your message?

[Oviedo] But isn't channel 13 here?

[Reporter] NOTICIAS and Radio Cardinal are also here.

[Oviedo] Channel 13 and Radio Cardinal are not prohibited from going where they want to. But they must publish the truth. Do not sell your consciences. You are disqualifying yourselves. Sooner or later we will remind you of what I am telling you. Our country is small.

Those who are unqualified, immoral, those who sell their conscience are now supporting a movement, in the future they will support another movement, they have more colors than a chameleon. A journalist should maintain an impartial position. He must reflect the truth if he wants to be taken (?seriously). But if you sell your conscience you will disqualify yourself. I tell you this because you are young and because I think that I have more experience than you because I am older than you. I have had the chance to observe the transition to democracy in other countries, not as a tourist but as a student. I suggest that you maintain a consistent line. You must analyze yourselves.

[Reporter] The interests that link the owner of a media company to someone is one thing, and our work as journalists is something else.

[Oviedo] Exactly. What media are you from?

[Reporter] Radio Cardinal.

[Oviedo] I ask you, why don't you say bad things about Stroessner on Cardinal? Are you forbidden to speak about him?

[Reporter] No, no one prohibits me, never.

[Oviedo] Why don't you ever say that he must come to settle accounts with justice for being responsible for the many who have died and whose mothers are still crying? You cannot publish anything about him because your boss will fire you.

[Reporter] No, general, you are wrong.

[Oviedo] Then why don't you do so?

[Reporter] We have the freedom to say it.

[Oviedo] Then do so.

[Reporter] Whenever we have a chance to say bad things about the dictatorship we do so. We have no restrictions. [end recording]

Central Bank Pays \$15 Million in Foreign Debt

PY1405214993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
14 May 93 p 21

[Excerpts] The Paraguayan Central Bank [BCP] last week disbursed 27 billion guaranies (some \$15 million) to pay off part of the country's arrears with multilateral credit organizations and the Paris Club. The amount disbursed was part of the 125 billion guaranies that the Finance Ministry "borrowed" [from the Central Bank] at the beginning of April.

According to BCP sources, the country's arrears—from January to April—on account of the foreign debt service amounted to some \$40 million. [passage omitted]

After this disbursement—some \$15,634,270—the country's foreign debt stood at \$1.2125 billion. This amount includes overdue and unpaid delinquent interest on our foreign obligations. [passage omitted]

The BCP paid the following institutions: AID received some \$150,000; the Inter-American Development Bank some \$2 million, and the World Bank over \$2.7 million. These amounts represent bills that fell due in April.

The BCP paid \$7 million to the Barclays Bank S.A. and the National Credit—both from France—on account of its overdue and unpaid debts with these institutions. It also paid more than \$2.6 million to the Eximbank of China, some \$526,000 to the Karubeni Overseas of Japan, and \$457,000 to OPEC.

The BCP still owes \$8 million to the Credit Lyonnais of Belgium. This debt was contracted by the Stroessner administration to purchase arms for our Armed Forces.

Correction to PLRA Cites Election Fraud Cases

PY1405210293

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "PLRA Cites Election Fraud Cases, Issues Declaration," published in the 13 May Latin America DAILY REPORT on Page 33:

First column, last paragraph, second sentence make read: ...five and 10 percent of voters who had.... (adding dropped words)

Peru

Military Officers Must Testify Before Congress

PA1305130493 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 13 May 93

[Text] The military officers involved in the La Cantuta case must testify before Congress. The Constitution Commission decided that Congress has the power to investigate civilian and military cases. The Constitution Commission met behind closed doors for nearly two hours to interpret Article 233 of the Constitution, which has to do with administering justice. The goal was to find a way out, without provoking a confrontation with the Armed Forces, to allow the Human Rights Commission to continue investigating the case of the missing people from La Cantuta.

[Begin Constitution Commission President Roger Caceres recording] We do not want to appear too abusive, as if the fact that because we uphold the Constitution means that we have so much power that we can cast aside all other authorities. The important thing to note is that we leave on record the fact that the Constitution takes precedence over the law. [end recording]

The Constitution Commission members then discussed topics dealing with the electoral system, approving Articles 5-7, in addition to a transitory disposition. According to that which was approved, from now on, election control will be under a national office in charge of the electoral processes, thus leaving the tribunal as a sort of court of appeals.

Opposition Demands Officers' Compliance

PA1405142493 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Representatives of the political opposition have threatened to withdraw from the Constituent Congress. During a news conference, representatives of the opposition demanded that the president of Congress defend parliamentary privileges and not lift the demand that officers involved in La Cantuta events appear before Congress.

During the news conference, representatives of the opposition made known the text of a letter sent to Constituent Congress President Jaime Yoshiyama. The letter points out Parliament's supervisory powers, which, the letter states, are being questioned and challenged—a situation that weakens the system's political stability—a clear reference to the refusal of the military men involved in La Cantuta to appear before Congress' Human Rights Commission.

The document was signed by the Popular Christian Party [PPC], the Left-Wing Democratic Movement [MDI], the Agrarian Independent Movement, the Independent Moralization Front [FIM], and Solidarity and Democracy.

[Begin recording] [Congressman Fernando Olivera] We are demanding compliance with the summons that the commission investigating La Cantuta case is delivering to Army officers involved in the case, the National Military Intelligence Service, and to Vladimiro Montesinos. We are also demanding compliance with the commission's request for documents and for the identity of the military personnel assigned to La Cantuta.

[Congressman Antero Flores] We are demanding coherent responses. We need not only declarations that there will be cooperation, but obedience to the orders from an investigating commission. There is no reason for this Parliament to exist if it does not comply with the supervisory duties that the Constitution, the law, and the very existence of Congress have assigned to it.

[Congressman Henry Pease] In a letter to the president of Congress we are demanding that he adopt a principled position and enforce respect for Congressional privileges. [end recording]

The congressmen left open the possibility of withdrawing from Congress.

Military Council Starts Proceedings

PA1505031293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0158 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] On the evening of 14 May, the Supreme Military Justice Council announced that, on instructions from the War Chamber, the Council's nonvoting members have started proceedings against military personnel regarding the disappearance of one professor and nine students from La Cantuta University.

Fujimori Says Forces Ready To Protect During 17 May Strike

PA1605034293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has urged the population to reject the threats by terrorist groups given the increase in subversive activities. The president offered full guarantees to transportation sector members to work as scheduled on 17 May:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] What guarantees will the government give the Peruvian people following the reports that a compulsory strike will reportedly be carried out on 17 May?

[Fujimori] All the guarantees will be given, as on previous occasions. The Armed Forces and national police have been deployed to critical areas, and we will not allow excesses by terrorist groups. These are really the last actions of the Shining Path. They are last ditch efforts. There may be other attacks because the Shining Path has yet to be eradicated. We still have two more years to wage the struggle. Do not forget that the Shining Path has been active for 10 years and that it had a 10-year preparatory period. The struggle must continue, and people must cooperate with the security forces. We will continue with our policy to compensate, albeit partially, for the damage the terrorists may cause to public transportation vehicles. We have been doing this for quite a while. It is like a free insurance policy granted by the government.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, one of the 5 April measures was to declare a reorganization in the comptroller-ship, which continues without a leader following Drago's resignation. Do you already have her replacement?

[Fujimori] We will present a proposal to the Democratic Constituent Congress next week. The proposal must be previously approved by the Council of Ministers. I do not want to disclose the name, but I believe the person will aptly fulfill the role.

[Correspondent] What is the new comptroller general's gender? Will it be a woman?

[Fujimori] No, in this case it is a gentleman. [end recording]

Car Bomb Explodes in Lima Marketplace 14 May

PA1505032693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Although terrorism has declined considerably, it has once again showed its fury in Lima: A group of terrorists detonated a car bomb near the police garrison at the wholesale fruit market in Yerbateros at dawn on 14 May. The police reacted immediately by conducting a spectacular operation in which 12 suspects were captured.

A dozen policemen were taken by surprise by a rifle grenade launched from Cerro del Pino, which was immediately followed by the explosion of a car bomb containing approximately 100 kg of ammonium nitrate fuel oil, which detonated when it crashed into the market's brick wall. Over 50 policemen and 100 soldiers arrived at the attack site and rapidly surrounded the hill. An unidentified correspondent who witnessed the events said the following:

[Begin correspondent recording] We were tense. The subversives have managed to flee from this area, which is adjacent to the wholesale market. The deployment of troops and policemen has been spectacular. The entire hill is virtually surrounded. More Army troops have arrived. There are approximately 100 of them. The shooting continues, and the police are alert to anything that may happen. A war grenade has been found near the fruit wholesale market. The troops and policemen have also detained a few suspects, and preliminary reports state that one subversive has been injured. The troops have also deactivated more explosive devices. [end recording]

The damage caused by the car bomb is considerably less than was caused by a similar incident in the same area some months ago. However, there are victims this time. Roy Falcon Avila, 8, was killed inside his home by a stray bullet during the police operation on Cerro del Pino. Although he was immediately taken by his relatives to Children's Hospital, the doctors were unable to save his life. His brother Carlos, 17, was wounded in the thorax by the bullet's shell:

[Begin Carlos Avila recording] The guards were searching and were firing. One bullet hit the window ledge, bounced, and hit my brother. [end recording]

Another mortal victim was a taxi driver, whose car was used by the subversives to escape. During the clash with the police, which extended as far as Cerro del San Pedro, one terrorist was killed.

Shining Path Members Burn Bus; Hurl Bombs at Bank 14 May

PA1605043993 Paris AFP in Spanish 0404 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Lima, 15 May (AFP)—Shining Path commandos burned a bus and hurled medium-intensity bombs at a bank branch in Lima on the evening of 14 May, according to the police.

In the heavily populated La Victoria District, one of the "hottest" in the capital, Shining Path members forced 50 passengers to leave their bus before setting it on fire. They also distributed pamphlets calling for a "compulsory 72-hour strike" on 17 May, the same sources added.

The terrorists fled due to a deployment of military vehicles. Security forces cordoned off the area and began a "house-to-house" search operation and arrested at least 10 suspects, it was reported.

Shortly thereafter, another subversive commando group hurled two homemade medium-intensity bombs at a bank branch in Barranco District, causing considerable damage but no casualties, the police stated.

Car Bomb Explodes 15 May, Injures Four

PA1605025993 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 May 93

[Excerpts] A car bomb loaded with 200 kg of dynamite and ammonium nitrate fuel oil exploded on the bridge spanning Brazil Avenue—located outside a military hospital on the first block of Marina Avenue—shortly after midnight on 15 May, injuring four people and igniting two vehicles. Members of the Magdalena Fire Department Company 36 have arrived on the scene. The police have virtually surrounded the bridge spanning Brazil Avenue. Soldiers have positioned themselves on the opposite end of the bridge to prevent suspicious looking people from approaching the scene. The explosion's strength could be observed by daylight. The explosion shattered the windows of several nearby houses and of the military hospital. Hospital personnel could be seen clearing the rubble. Police found three pictures and a brevet of the owner of the station wagon that was used in the car bombing. The owner's identity is not being disclosed for security reasons. [passage omitted]

It has also been reported that after a spectacular chase and shoot-out, four subversives were killed while trying to flee from the police. The incident occurred in San Martin de Porres after midnight. Only a few blocks from a store in the (?Bipol) area, police intercepted a vehicle in which four individuals armed with grenades and explosives used by the Shining Path were riding. All of them were killed after a clash. One injured police officer was taken to Cayetano Heredia Hospital. The police cordoned off the area shortly after midnight, thus succeeding in thwarting an attack by these rebels. The driver of the vehicle, a young man in expensive clothes, sustained bullet wounds and had a grenade in his hands. Another man, armed with a pistol, was lying in the back, completely smeared with blood. The third body also held an explosive. The fourth man was intercepted and shot dead by another patrol near the area. More than 50 police of various San Martin district sectors have arrived at the site to prevent any surprise counterattack by the rebels. The car in which one of the policemen was wounded is the same car that chased the rebels for several blocks along Jose Ganda Avenue until the rebels were intercepted. The police officer was wounded in the

arm. Homicide personnel proceeded to remove the bodies and prepare a report for later autopsies.

Shining Path Carries Out Attacks in Lima 16 May

PA1605222793 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2135 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Lima, 16 May (NOTIMEX)—Police sources report there have been several bomb attacks in Lima over the past hours, which resulted in one person killed and considerable material damage.

A bomb also exploded in front of an Inter-American Finance Bank Agency in the commercial district of the San Isidro area of southern Lima. The bomb damaged the facade and broke the windows of neighboring buildings.

After the attack, which took place a few minutes after 0500 [0900 GMT], Army and police forces thoroughly combed the area to arrest the perpetrators of the terrorist action.

Members of a Shining Path "cell" set on fire and destroyed at least three public transportation vehicles in several areas in the outskirts of Lima. The police have not reported any victims.

According to radio sources, three heavily armed men stopped a van and forced the driver and several passengers to get out of the vehicle. The driver was letting off passengers at the densely populated eastern district of Ate-Vitarte early on the morning of 16 May. Immediately after the passengers stepped out, the rebels doused the vehicle with gasoline and hurled a small stick of dynamite into it.

A few hours later, another group of Shining Path members attacked an urban bus in La Victoria neighborhood, located near the center of Lima. The rebels fired at the bus and set it on fire after the passengers stepped out of the vehicle.

The driver, who tried to stop them from setting the vehicle on fire, died in the hospital, where he was transported by a bomb squad patrol car.

A Shining Path commando has exploded a car bomb containing 200 kg of explosives in the vicinity of the military hospital in the southwestern area of Magdalena District. The car bomb resulted in four people being seriously injured and very heavy damage.

Correction to Prosecutor Asks Media To Help Locate Robles

PA1305131693

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Prosecutor Asks Media, Public To Help Locate Gen. Robles" published in the 13 May Latin America Daily Report on page 35:

Column two, penultimate paragraph, make read: ...might not talk, even though he is outside the country. [end graf]

[Colan] It is(rewording)

Venezuela

Teachers Reportedly Occupy Portuguese Consulate

LD1405192393 Lisbon RTP Internacional Television in Portuguese 1800 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] We have some news just in that nine Venezuelan school teachers have occupied the Portuguese Consulate in Caracas. We have just received this news. The teachers stated they have taken this measure as a form of radicalization of their labor dispute and to publicize it internationally.

Portuguese Envoy Describes Occupation

LD1405201393 Lisbon RTP Internacional Television in Portuguese 1800 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] [Announcer] We are now going to return to the news of the occupancy of the Portuguese Consulate in Caracas. We have on the telephone Portuguese Ambassador in Venezuela Julio Mascarenhas. Good evening, ambassador. What is going on at the consulate in Caracas?

[Mascarenhas] Good evening. Approximately 90 minutes ago I received a telephone call from the consul-general saying that a group of teachers who have been involved in a labor dispute here in Venezuela had entered the consulate's offices and locked them with padlocks which they carried, wanting to make their demands known. These same demands were eventually put into writing and sent here to the embassy. At the end of the day, the demands have nothing to do with the Portuguese authorities or the Portuguese Consulate. They are demands to be submitted to the Venezuelan authorities; we are at the moment reporting them to the Venezuelan authorities.

[Announcer] Have the occupiers an aggressive attitude toward the consulate's staff?

[Mascarenhas] No, no. The situation at the consulate is normal; people cannot enter or leave the premises. I am in direct contact with the consul general. Therefore, they do not seem to be violent and it looks like they are not carrying weapons either.

[Announcer] Did they explain why they chose the Portuguese Consulate and not that of a country with more international influence?

[Mascarenhas] I have no information on that, but at least one of the teachers has been identified as being of Portuguese origin or being Portuguese. His name is Carlos Teixeira, and he seems to be one of the promoters

of the occupancy. There is another name which may or may not be Portuguese—Jose Matos. I do not know whether he is Portuguese.

[Announcer] What have the Venezuelan authorities told you?

[Mascarenhas] Well, I have been in touch only once with the State Attorney's Office and it seems that the teachers want to meet a certain Venezuelan MP who sympathizes with the teachers' strike and is on a hunger strike. They also want to meet a representative of the State Attorney's Office, which is called here the Fiscalia General de la Republica.

[Announcer] Do you have any idea when the occupancy may end?

[Mascarenhas] The attitude of the occupants allows the consulate general to at least have an idea that the occupants only want the problem to be internationally publicized and that once this objective is reached and the requested meetings are agreed upon, they will leave the premises. That information may not be correct, however. Our attitude is one of great caution; the occupancy may go on for hours or even days. Therefore, we do not know and are dealing with the matter with the greatest care. Along with the contacts with authorities, we are requesting that they not use violence or repression without our prior consent.

[Announcer] Many thanks, ambassador. The line is getting quite bad now.

I have further news that a state of emergency has been declared in Venezuela.

Protestors Allow Staff To Leave Premises

LD1405225293 Lisbon Radio Renascenca in Portuguese to Europe 2200 GMT 14 May 93

[Excerpt] According to the Portuguese emigrant leader of the group of teachers that occupied the Portuguese Consulate in Caracas today, the group has declared the occupation over and is only at the consulate waiting for protection. Carlos Teixeira, a school teacher leading the protest and a member of a Venezuelan trade union executive board, assured that the consulate's staff had already been allowed to leave the premises, a fact confirmed by Portuguese Consul General Monteiro Batista.

Carlos Teixeira stated the eight teachers involved in the protest at the Portuguese Consulate will only leave when there is confirmation they will not be the target of reprisal by the political police, which at the moment are surrounding the area. [passage omitted]

Adviser Says Case Against Perez Based on Bank 'Mistake'

PA1505022593 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] According to Freddy Zambrano, adviser of the Attorney General's Office, the situation that has arisen regarding the 250 million bolivars of the Interior Affairs Ministry secret fund is based on a mistake made at the Venezuelan Central Bank.

Adviser Zambrano claims that the report presented by the president of the Supreme Court of Justice at the pretrial hearing against the president of the Republic does not legally withstand a logical analysis.

He added that, in the report, there is no real evidence of any punishable crime being committed. He explained that the case is based on circumstantial evidence.

[Begin Zambrano recording] The circumstantial evidence must be based on proven facts in the file, not on mere suspicion or facts imagined by the magistrate while drafting his verdict.

In this case the magistrate did not consider the documented evidence or testimonies explaining the mistake made at the Venezuelan Central Bank when they, in error, issued a check for the Ministry of the Secretariat [of the Presidency], whereas that check was meant for the Interior Affairs Ministry.

This was well explained by all the officials who participated in that operation. [end recording]

Freddy Zambrano, adviser of the Attorney General's Office, urged all the members of the Supreme Court of Justice to consider very carefully their vote on the report presented by Magistrate Gonzalo Rodriguez Corro.

Governor Declares State of Emergency in Caracas

PA1405191693 Caracas Radio Caracas Radio Network in Spanish 1900 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Caracas Governor Antonio Ledezma has declared a state of emergency in the city of Caracas in light of the student unrest in the past few days. Ledezma has

informed Caracas Radio Caracas Radio Network that despite the difficult situation, the security organizations hope to solve the problem quickly.

Official Denies Emergency Declared

PA1505143793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0722 GMT 15 May 93

[Excerpt] Caracas, 15 May (EFE)—On 15 May, Venezuelan Government representatives voiced their concern over the image that the country's situation of instability may create in influential political and economic circles abroad.

Central Information Office Minister Angel Zambrano cleared up the confusion regarding the alleged declaration of the "state of emergency" when he denied reports to that effect that were "disseminated abroad" on Friday, 14 May.

Zambrano stated that "although some disruptions of public order have occurred, none of them meet the criteria for adopting a measure of that kind." Zambrano added: "All activities, both official and private, are taking place in an absolutely normal manner."

Using similar terms, Interior Minister Jesus Carmon said "the government has not taken any extraordinary or special measures, guarantees have not been suspended, and police restrictions have not been established."

The two officials' remarks came on the heels of a statement by Caracas Governor Antonio Ledezma, who, in view of the accumulation of problems the city is facing, said it was in "a state of emergency."

In addition, the remarks by Defense Minister General Ivan Jimenez and Interior Minister Jesus Ramon Carmona that a "wave of subversion" was unleashed served to heighten anxiety in the country in the face of the possible trial of President Carlos Andres Perez for alleged embezzlement of public funds.

For these ministers, the "wave of subversion" is reflected in the clashes between police and students over the past week and other "evidence" upon which they declined to elaborate. [passage omitted]